

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 802

To award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2017

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. SCOTT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Larry Doby Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Larry Doby was born in Camden, South
4 Carolina, on December 13, 1923, and moved to
5 Paterson, New Jersey, in 1938, where he became a
6 standout sport athlete at Paterson Eastside High
7 School;

8 (2) Larry Doby attended Long Island Univer-
9 sity on a basketball scholarship before enlisting in
10 the United States Navy during World War II;

11 (3) upon his honorable discharge from the Navy
12 in 1946, Larry Doby played baseball in the Negro
13 National League for the Newark Eagles;

14 (4) after playing the 1946 season, Larry Doby's
15 contract was purchased by the Cleveland Indians of
16 the American League on July 3, 1947;

17 (5) on July 5, 1947, Larry Doby became the
18 first African-American to play in the American
19 League;

20 (6) Larry Doby played in the American League
21 for 13 years, appearing in 1,533 games and batting
22 .283, with 253 home runs and 970 runs batted in;

23 (7) Larry Doby was voted to 7 All-Star teams,
24 led the American League in home runs twice, and
25 played in 2 World Series;

1 (8) in 1948, Larry Doby helped lead the Cleve-
2 land Indians to a World Series Championship over
3 the Boston Braves and became the first African-
4 American player to hit a home run in a World Series
5 game;

6 (9) after his stellar playing career ended, Larry
7 Doby continued to make a significant contribution to
8 his community;

9 (10) Larry Doby was a pioneer in the cause of
10 civil rights and received honorary doctorate degrees
11 from Long Island University, Princeton University,
12 and Fairfield University;

13 (11) in 1978, Larry Doby became the manager
14 of the Chicago White Sox, only the second African-
15 American manager of a Major League Baseball
16 team;

17 (12) Larry Doby was the Director of Commu-
18 nity Relations for the New Jersey Nets of the Na-
19 tional Basketball Association, where he was deeply
20 involved in a number of inner-city youth programs;
21 and

22 (13) Larry Doby was inducted to the National
23 Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
6 medal of appropriate design, in honor of Larry Doby and
7 in recognition of his achievements and contributions to
8 American major league athletics, civil rights, and the
9 Armed Forces during World War II.

10 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
11 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
12 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
13 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
14 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
15 retary.

16 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—
17 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of
18 Larry Doby pursuant to subsection (a), the gold medal
19 shall be given to his son, Larry Doby, Jr.

20 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
22 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
23 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
24 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
25 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
26 and the cost of the gold medal.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
4 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
8 items.

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