

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8535

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Shirley Chisholm.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2022

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DEAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WILD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TRONE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. BASS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DEFazio, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MFUME, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JONES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEYER, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. BUSH, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BERA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. NEWMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to
Shirley Chisholm.

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 “Shirley Chisholm Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) In 1968, Shirley Chisholm became the first
9 African-American woman elected to Congress where
10 she served until 1982.

11 (2) Shirley Chisholm inspired and led the
12 march of political achievement by African Americans
13 and women in the three decades since she ran for
14 the Presidency of the United States.

15 (3) Her election to Congress and her candidacy
16 for the Presidency raised the profile and aspirations
17 of all African Americans and women in the field of
18 politics.

19 (4) Shirley Chisholm was recognized for her ac-
20 tivism, independence, and groundbreaking achieve-
21 ments in politics during and after the civil rights
22 era.

1 (5) Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn,
2 New York, on November 30, 1924, attended Brook-
3 lyn College, and earned a Master’s degree from Co-
4 lumbia University.

5 (6) Shirley Chisholm worked in education and
6 social services before being elected to the New York
7 State Assembly in 1964.

8 (7) Shirley Chisholm established the Unity
9 Democratic Club in 1960, which played a significant
10 role in rallying Black and Hispanic voters in New
11 York City.

12 (8) In 1969, Shirley Chisholm began her service
13 in the 91st Congress, representing Brooklyn’s 12th
14 Congressional District in the United States House of
15 Representatives.

16 (9) During her service in the House of Rep-
17 resentatives, Shirley Chisholm promoted the employ-
18 ment of women in Congress and was vocal in her
19 support of civil rights, women’s rights, and the poor,
20 while fervently opposing the Vietnam War.

21 (10) In 1972, Shirley Chisholm was the first
22 African American to seek the nomination of a major
23 party for President of the United States.

24 (11) Shirley Chisholm was a co-founder of the
25 National Organization for Women.

1 (12) An historic figure in American political
2 history, Shirley Chisholm died at the age of 80 in
3 Ormond Beach, Florida, on New Year’s Day 2005.

4 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

5 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
6 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
7 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
8 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-
9 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-
10 ration of Shirley Chisholm, in recognition of her activism,
11 independence, and groundbreaking achievements in poli-
12 tics, her election as the first African-American woman in
13 the Congress, and her campaign to be the first African
14 American to gain the nomination of a major political party
15 for President of the United States.

16 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
17 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
18 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
19 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
20 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
21 retary.

22 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
24 gold medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold
25 medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,

1 where it will be displayed as appropriate and made
2 available for research.

3 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
4 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
5 make the gold medal received under this Act avail-
6 able for display elsewhere, particularly at other loca-
7 tions and events associated with Shirley Chisholm.

8 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

9 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
10 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
11 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
12 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
13 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

14 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

15 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
16 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
17 51 of title 31, United States Code.

18 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
19 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
20 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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