

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4867

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to General James N. Mattis, in recognition of his distinguished military career, his steadfast moral character and patriotism, and his unyielding devotion to the protection of this Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HECK, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. SCHRIER) 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

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to General James N. Mattis, in recognition of his distinguished military career, his steadfast moral character and patriotism, and his unyielding devotion to the protection of this Nation.

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 “General James N.  
5 Mattis Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) James N. Mattis was born in Pullman,  
4 Washington, on September 8, 1950.

5 (2) James N. Mattis graduated from Columbia  
6 High School in 1968 and began his military career  
7 the following year, enlisting in the United States  
8 Marine Corps Reserve.

9 (3) In 1971, James N. Mattis earned a Bach-  
10 elor of Arts in history from Central Washington  
11 State College. He earned a Master of Arts in inter-  
12 national security affairs from National Defense Uni-  
13 versity's National War College in 1994.

14 (4) On January 1, 1972, James N. Mattis was  
15 commissioned as a second lieutenant through the  
16 Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course. As a lieuten-  
17 ant, he commanded infantry platoons and, as a cap-  
18 tain, commanded both rifle and weapons companies  
19 in the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii. Promoted to  
20 major, he served as battalion officer at the Naval  
21 Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Is-  
22 land, and commanded Recruiting Station Portland,  
23 Oregon.

24 (5) During the Gulf War, James N. Mattis  
25 served as lieutenant colonel and commanded the 1st  
26 Battalion, 7th Marines. Promoted to colonel, he

1       commanded the 7th Marine Regiment at Twentynine  
2       Palms, California, and served as the Executive Sec-  
3       retary to the Department of Defense for Secretaries  
4       William Perry and Bill Cohen.

5           (6) Following the September 11, 2001, attacks  
6       on America, then-Brigadier General James N.  
7       Mattis led Task Force 58 through a series of oper-  
8       ations in southern Afghanistan, making him the first  
9       United States Marine Corps officer to command a  
10      Naval Task Force.

11          (7) James N. Mattis, as major general, com-  
12      manded the 1st Marine Division during the 2003 in-  
13      vasion of Iraq. He continued in this role until 2004,  
14      when he was promoted to lieutenant general and as-  
15      sumed command of the Marine Corps Combat Devel-  
16      opment Command. The Pentagon announced on  
17      May 31, 2006, that he was chosen to take command  
18      of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of  
19      Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and all Ma-  
20      rines assigned to the United States Central Com-  
21      mand.

22          (8) James N. Mattis relinquished command of  
23      the I Marine Expeditionary Force on November 5,  
24      2007. Four days later, on November 9, 2007, he  
25      was promoted to four-star general to command

1 United States Joint Forces Command (JFCOM),  
2 concurrently serving as NATO's Supreme Allied  
3 Commander Transformation (SACT). He trans-  
4 ferred his role as SACT on September 9, 2009,  
5 while continuing to command JFCOM.

6 (9) After a recommendation from Defense Sec-  
7 retary Robert Gates, James N. Mattis was formally  
8 nominated as commander of United States Central  
9 Command by President Barack Obama, effective  
10 July 21, 2010.

11 (10) United States Central Command an-  
12 nounced the resignation of James N. Mattis on April  
13 27, 2012, and his retirement from the United States  
14 Marine Corps was finalized on June 1, 2013.

15 (11) On December 1, 2016, President Donald  
16 Trump announced that he would nominate James N.  
17 Mattis for United States Secretary of Defense. He  
18 was confirmed by the United States Senate on Janu-  
19 ary 20, 2017, and served until December 31, 2018.

20 (12) James N. Mattis, prior to and since his re-  
21 tirement from the United States Marine Corps, has  
22 been awarded many awards and commendations, in-  
23 cluding—

1 (A) the Center for National Policy “Ed-  
2 mund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service  
3 Award” (2009);

4 (B) the Atlantic Council “Distinguished  
5 Military Leadership Award” (2010);

6 (C) the World Affairs Council of Greater  
7 Hampton Roads “Ryan C. Crocker Global Cit-  
8 izen of the Year” Award (2013);

9 (D) the Marine Corps University Founda-  
10 tion “Semper Fidelis Award” (2014);

11 (E) the Washington Policy Center “Cham-  
12 pion of Freedom Award” (2016);

13 (F) the “Dwight D. Eisenhower Distin-  
14 guished Service Award” (2019);

15 (G) the OSS Society “William J. Donovan  
16 Award” (2019); and

17 (H) the Washington Policy Center “Co-  
18 lumbia Award” (2019).

19 (13) James N. Mattis is a native of Washington  
20 State and devoted resident of the Pacific Northwest.  
21 He exemplifies a deep love and commitment for his  
22 hometown of Richland, Washington, and the greater  
23 Tri-Cities through his enthusiastic involvement in  
24 the community and long-time volunteer service with  
25 the Tri-Cities Food Bank.

1           (14) James N. Mattis is the published author  
2           of “Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead”.

3           (15) James N. Mattis demonstrates the Amer-  
4           ican principles of hard work, patriotism, and integ-  
5           rity. His distinguished military and civilian service  
6           and his devotion to defending and upholding the  
7           Constitution are an inspiration to all Americans.

8   **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

9           (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
10          the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
11          pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
12          for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
13          medal of appropriate design to General James N. Mattis,  
14          in recognition of his distinguished military career, his  
15          steadfast moral character and patriotism, and his  
16          unyielding devotion to the protection of this Nation.

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

23          (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

24                  (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
25          gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal

1 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where  
2 it shall be available for display as appropriate and  
3 made available for research.

4 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
5 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall  
6 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
7 available for—

8 (A) display, particularly at the National  
9 Portrait Gallery; and

10 (B) loan, as appropriate, so that the medal  
11 may be displayed elsewhere.

12 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

19 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

20 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
21 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
22 51 of title 31, United States Code.

1       (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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