

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 537

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2023

Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

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 “Forgotten Heroes of
5 the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The following diplomats will be honored
2 posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria
3 Barreto (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe
4 Bernardini (Vatican / Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bing-
5 ham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzer-
6 land), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador),
7 Carlos de Liz-Texeira Branquinho (Portugal),
8 Eduardo Propper de Callejón (Spain), Samuel del
9 Campo (Chile), Aracy Moebius Carvalho de
10 Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), José Arturo Castellanos
11 (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis
12 Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand
13 Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland),
14 Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-
15 Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida
16 Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond
17 Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho
18 (China), Constantin Karadjia (Romania), Alexander
19 Kasser (Sándor Kasza) (Sweden / Hungary), Elow
20 Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman
21 (Netherlands), Julius Kühl (Switzerland),
22 Aleksander Ładoś (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Swe-
23 den), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George
24 Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu
25 (Romania), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal),

1 Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio
2 (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain / Italy), Ernst Prodolliet
3 (Switzerland), Franjo Punčuch (Yugoslavia / Slo-
4 venia), Sebastián de Romero Radigales (Spain),
5 Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Angelo Giuseppe
6 Roncalli (Vatican / Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican /
7 Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey), Stefan
8 Ryniewicz (Poland), Gilberto Bosques Saldívar
9 (Mexico), José Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Ángel Sanz-
10 Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk
11 Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United King-
12 dom), Ján Spišiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo)
13 Sugihara (Japan), Ireanaeus Typaldos (Spain),
14 Alexander (Sándor) Újváry (Vatican / Hungary),
15 Selahattin Ülkümen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino
16 (Vatican / Italy), Vladimír Vochoč (Czech Republic),
17 Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg
18 (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zürcher
19 (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Holland).

20 (2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and
21 the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which
22 started World War II and threw the world into
23 chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish
24 population was in full motion. As battles were being
25 fought between countries, Jews were being rounded

1 up and sent to concentration camps throughout Eu-
2 rope. This process began a mass exodus of people
3 out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish com-
4 munity.

5 (3) During the war, members of the Jewish
6 community used every tool and means at their dis-
7 posal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee
8 on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

9 (4) While the armies of countries were fighting
10 each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the
11 world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to
12 save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly
13 dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the ac-
14 tions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as
15 a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the
16 Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers
17 and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict
18 orders from their home countries to not aid the Jew-
19 ish population in any way.

20 (5) These diplomats used every means at their
21 disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the
22 most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was
23 the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to
24 the instruction of the governments of the diplomats.
25 This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds

1 of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was
2 not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were
3 connected with the local populations and were great
4 communicators for Jews trying to travel under-
5 ground. They were able set up safehouses and
6 getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children
7 from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of
8 times, several of these diplomats confronted the
9 Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally
10 put themselves in grave danger.

11 (6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew
12 what they were up against, and still pushed forward
13 to save those in the most danger.

14 (7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized
15 under this Act will help remind humanity that when
16 the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they
17 went beyond the fold, including risking their careers
18 and the lives of themselves and their families, to en-
19 gage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of
20 today and future generations can look towards these
21 heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and
22 sacrifice.

23 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-

1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
2 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
3 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 dip-
4 lomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their
5 brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War
6 II.

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

13 (c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The gold medal pre-
14 sented under subsection (a) shall be presented to the eld-
15 est next of kin of each of the 60 diplomats identified in
16 section 2(1), who shall receive the medal as part of a dele-
17 gation consisting of a senior official representative of the
18 country that each diplomat served and the cochairs of the
19 Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust Committee.

20 (d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
21 SEUM.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
23 gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified
24 in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the
25 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where

1 it will be available for display as appropriate and
2 available for research.

3 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
4 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
5 rial Museum should make the gold medal awarded
6 pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere,
7 particularly at appropriate locations associated with
8 Holocaust remembrance.

9 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
11 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
12 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
13 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

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

15 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to
16 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
17 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.

21 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
22 **SALE.**

23 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
24 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
25 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-

1 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
2 this Act.

3 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
4 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
5 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
6 Enterprise Fund.

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