

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1097

AN ACT

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez,
Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Everett Alvarez, Jr.
3 Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Commander (CDR) Everett Alvarez, Jr.,
7 served with distinction in the Vietnam war and made
8 historic sacrifices for the United States as the first
9 United States pilot to be shot down and captured
10 during the Vietnam war and the second-longest pris-
11 oner of war in United States history, surviving over
12 eight and half years in captivity.

13 (2) CDR Alvarez was born in Salinas, Cali-
14 fornia, in 1937, and was the grandchild of Mexican
15 immigrants.

16 (3) CDR Alvarez attended Salinas Union High
17 School and Hartnell College and received a bachelor
18 of science degree from Santa Clara University.

19 (4) In 1960, CDR Alvarez joined the United
20 States Navy and was commissioned as Ensign.

21 (5) After receiving his commission, CDR Alva-
22 rez attended flight training at the Naval Air Basic
23 Training Command in Pensacola, Florida.

24 (6) In June 1961, CDR Alvarez was trans-
25 ferred to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in

1 Kingsville, Texas, where he trained until December
2 1961.

3 (7) CDR Alvarez was promoted to Lieutenant
4 (junior grade) in April 1962.

5 (8) In June 1962, CDR Alvarez joined Attack
6 Squadron 144, nicknamed the “Roadrunners”,
7 which was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin prior to
8 the United States entrance in the Vietnam war in
9 August 1964.

10 (9) On August 5, 1964, while flying Operation
11 Pierce Arrow from the USS Constellation near the
12 Vietnam-China border, CDR Alvarez’s A-4 Skyhawk
13 was shot down and he was captured by a Vietnamese
14 fishing vessel.

15 (10) Upon capture, CDR Alvarez was taken to
16 the Hòa Lò Prison in Hanoi, known to many former
17 prisoners as the “Hanoi Hilton”.

18 (11) CDR Alvarez spent his first thirteen
19 months, eight days, and five hours in isolation.

20 (12) While at Hòa Lò, CDR Alvarez was re-
21 peatedly beaten and tortured and was fed inedible
22 meals and suffered malnourishment.

23 (13) In September 1965, CDR Alvarez was
24 moved to the “Briarpatch”, a prison camp west of
25 Hanoi, with no electricity or running water.

1 (14) Despite torture and interrogation, CDR
2 Alvarez remained loyal to the United States and as-
3 sisted other American prisoners of war.

4 (15) CDR Alvarez, with his own actions, en-
5 couraged and inspired fellow prisoners of war to
6 “Return with Honor”, which meant keeping their in-
7 tegrity in the face of torture and not cooperating
8 with or divulging information to the enemy, so they
9 could return home having remained loyal to the
10 United States.

11 (16) At great risk, CDR Alvarez helped spread
12 the means of communication, including the tap code
13 and the mute hand code, to keep up spirits and stay
14 organized.

15 (17) On July 6, 1966, CDR Alvarez and 51
16 other American prisoners of war were forced to
17 march in the “Hanoi Parade” where he was abused
18 and attacked by mobs.

19 (18) CDR Alvarez was released February 12,
20 1973, after spending 3,113 days in captivity, or
21 eight years and six months.

22 (19) Following his release and hospitalization,
23 CDR Alvarez resumed his Naval service, returning
24 to Naval Air Station Kingsville for refresher flight
25 training.

1 (20) CDR Alvarez attended the U.S. Naval
2 Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and re-
3 ceived a master's degree in Operations Research and
4 Systems Analysis in 1976.

5 (21) CDR Alvarez was inducted into the U.S.
6 Naval Postgraduate School's Alumni Hall of Fame
7 on March 27, 2015.

8 (22) CDR Alvarez served in Program Manage-
9 ment at the Naval Air Systems command in Wash-
10 ington, DC, from October 1976 until his retirement.

11 (23) CDR Alvarez retired from the Navy on
12 June 30, 1980, completing a 20-year Naval career.

13 (24) In 1983, CDR Alvarez earned his juris
14 doctor from the George Washington School of Law
15 and has been admitted to the District of Columbia
16 bar.

17 (25) In April 1981, President Ronald Reagan
18 appointed CDR Alvarez as Deputy Director of the
19 Peace Corps, where he served until 1982.

20 (26) In July 1982, President Reagan nomi-
21 nated CDR Alvarez to be Deputy Administrator of
22 the Veterans Administration, now known as the De-
23 partment of Veterans Affairs, serving until 1986.

24 (27) In February 1987, President Reagan ap-
25 pointed CDR Alvarez to the Board of Regents of the

1 Uniformed Services University of the Health
2 Sciences, where he served for nearly 21 years.

3 (28) For his service, CDR Alvarez was awarded
4 the Silver Star Medal, two Legions of Merit, the
5 Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Star Med-
6 als, two Purple Hearts, and the Prisoner of War
7 Medal.

8 (29) On September 18, 2012, the United States
9 Navy Memorial awarded CDR Alvarez the “Lone
10 Sailor Award”.

11 (30) The people of the United States honor the
12 sacrifices of CDR Alvarez and his service to our Na-
13 tion.

14 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
16 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
17 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
18 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
19 medal of appropriate design to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in rec-
20 ognition of his service to the Nation.

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

1 retary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscription
2 of the name of, Everett Alvarez, Jr.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

8 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
10 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
11 31, United States Code.

12 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
13 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
14 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
16 **SALE.**

17 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
18 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
19 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
20 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
21 this Act.

22 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
23 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

- 1 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2024.

Attest:

Clerk.

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