

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1861

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “The Larry Doby Con-
3 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

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

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

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

17 (4) after playing the 1946 season, Larry Doby’s
18 contract was purchased by the Cleveland Indians of
19 the American League on July 3, 1947;

20 (5) on July 5, 1947, Larry Doby became the
21 first African-American to play in the American
22 League;

23 (6) Larry Doby played in the American League
24 for 13 years, appearing in 1,533 games and batting
25 .283, with 253 home runs and 970 runs batted in;

1 (7) Larry Doby was voted to seven All-Star
2 teams, led the American League in home runs twice,
3 and played in two World Series;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

23 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
24 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
25 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at

1 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
2 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
3 and the cost of the gold medal.

4 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

8 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
9 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
10 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
11 items.

Passed the House of Representatives July 10, 2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

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