

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5142

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 31, 2021

Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MELJER, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEIL, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AMODEI, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. CARL, Mr. COLE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MANN, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. VELA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of

Pennsylvania, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. EMMER, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. FALLON, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BALDERSON, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. BOST, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Ms. MACE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. BENTZ) 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 award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) At 9:44 A.M., on August 26, 2021, the
 6 Pentagon confirmed that one explosion occurred at
 7 the Hamid Karzai International Airport.

8 (2) The explosion was confirmed to be a suicide
 9 bombing by ISIS–K terrorist group.

1 (3) Estimates as high as 200 deaths were re-
2 ported, including 13 servicemembers of the United
3 States, as well as hundreds more wounded.

4 (4) The attack on Thursday, August 26, 2021,
5 at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul,
6 Afghanistan, killed 13 United States
7 servicemembers, making it the deadliest single day
8 of the war for the United States in more than a dec-
9 ade.

10 (5) The American servicemembers went above
11 and beyond the call of duty to protect citizens of the
12 United States and our allies to ensure they are
13 brought to safety in an extremely dangerous situa-
14 tion as the Taliban regained control over Afghani-
15 stan.

16 (6) The American servicemembers exemplified
17 extreme bravery and valor against armed enemy
18 combatants.

19 (7) The American servicemembers dedicated
20 their lives and their heroism deserves great honor.

21 (8) Maxton Soviak, Kareem Nikoui, David
22 Espinoza, Rylee McCollum, Jared Schmitz, Hunter
23 Lopez, Taylor Hoover, Daegan William-Tyler Page,
24 Nicole Gee, Humberto Sanchez, Dylan Merola,
25 Johanny Rosario Pichardo, and Ryan Knauss have

1 been identified as the 13 servicemembers who died
2 from the blast while stationed at Hamid Karzai
3 International Airport.

4 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

5 (a) PRESENTATIONS 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 single gold medal of appropriate design in com-
10 memoration to the 13 servicemembers who perished in Af-
11 ghanistan, on August 26, 2021.

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

18 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
20 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
21 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
22 it shall be available for display as appropriate and
23 made available for research.

24 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
25 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall

1 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
2 available for display outside of the District of Co-
3 lumbia at times, particularly at other locations asso-
4 ciated with the 13 servicemembers who perished in
5 Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

6 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

7 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
8 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at
9 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
10 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

11 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

12 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medal struck pursuant
13 to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter
14 51 of title 31, United States Code.

15 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
16 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
17 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

18 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**

19 **SALE.**

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

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

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