

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 791

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Muhammad Ali, in  
recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Mr. CARSON of Indiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to  
the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Mu-  
hammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., on Janu-  
6 ary 17, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky, Muhammad  
7 Ali was the first child of Cassius, Sr., and Odessa  
8 Clay.

9 (2) Muhammad Ali was one of the most cele-  
10 brated athletes of the 20th century. He produced

1       some of America’s greatest sports memories, from  
2       winning a gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics  
3       to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer  
4       Olympics.

5           (3) After an impressive amateur career, during  
6       which he recorded 131 wins and only 7 losses and  
7       won 2 National AAU light heavyweight titles, Mu-  
8       hammad Ali became the first professional boxer in  
9       history to capture the heavyweight title 3 separate  
10      times.

11          (4) Muhammad Ali defeated every challenger he  
12      faced in the ring. But, on April 28, 1967, he was  
13      stripped of his boxing title and barred from com-  
14      peting for being a conscientious objector to the war  
15      in Vietnam on religious and moral grounds. How-  
16      ever, following a unanimous United States Supreme  
17      Court decision in 1971, Muhammad Ali’s conscien-  
18      tious objector status was confirmed, his boxing li-  
19      cense was reinstated, and he was cleared of any  
20      wrongdoing.

21          (5) As an African-American and a Muslim who  
22      lived in an era that continued to question his civil  
23      rights, Muhammad Ali battled issues of race and re-  
24      ligion, and received recognition as one of the cham-

1 pions of the Civil Rights Movement in the United  
2 States.

3 (6) Muhammad Ali was the recipient of many  
4 awards for his sporting prowess and his support of  
5 racial harmony, including the Dr. Martin Luther  
6 King Memorial Award, the Spirit of America Award,  
7 the Amnesty International Lifetime Achievement  
8 Award, the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage, the Es-  
9 sence Living Legend Award, the Rainbow Coalition  
10 Lifetime Achievement Award, the XNBA Human  
11 Spirit Award, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and  
12 the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

13 (7) Muhammad Ali was acknowledged by many  
14 organizations for his achievements both inside and  
15 outside the boxing ring, including being crowned  
16 “Sportsman of the Century” by Sports Illustrated,  
17 being named “Athlete of the Century” by GQ maga-  
18 zine, being named “Sports Personality of the Cen-  
19 tury” by the British Broadcasting Corporation,  
20 being named “Kentucky Athlete of the Century” by  
21 the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame, being named  
22 “Kentuckian of the Century” by the State of Ken-  
23 tucky, being named “Louisvillian of the Century” by  
24 the Advertising Club of Louisville, being named  
25 “Boxer of the Century” by the World Sports Awards

1 of the Century, being recognized by the Inter-  
2 national Boxing Hall of Fame, and receiving hon-  
3 orary doctorate degrees from Muhlenberg College  
4 and Western Kentucky University, as well as an  
5 honorary doctorate of humanities at Princeton Uni-  
6 versity's 260th graduation ceremony.

7 (8) Muhammad Ali received the prestigious  
8 "Otto Hahn Peace Medal in Gold" from the United  
9 Nations Association of Germany for his work with  
10 the United Nations and the Civil Rights Movement  
11 in the United States.

12 (9) Muhammad Ali was selected by the Cali-  
13 fornia Bicentennial Foundation for the U.S. Con-  
14 stitution for personifying the vitality of the Bill of  
15 Rights in various high-profile activities.

16 (10) Despite having been diagnosed with Par-  
17 kinson's Syndrome in the early 1980s, Muhammad  
18 Ali dedicated his life to the cause of universal  
19 human rights and freedom. His commitment to  
20 equal justice and peace touched the lives of hundreds  
21 of thousands of people worldwide.

22 (11) President Jimmy Carter asked Muhammad  
23 Ali to meet with African leaders in Tanzania, Kenya,  
24 Nigeria, Liberia, and Senegal as part of President

1 Carter’s diplomatic efforts on behalf of human rights  
2 in the 1980s.

3 (12) In 1990, Muhammad Ali traveled to the  
4 Middle East to seek the release of American and  
5 British hostages that were being held as human  
6 shields in the first Gulf War. As a result of his  
7 intervention, 15 United States hostages were freed  
8 on December 2nd of that year.

9 (13) In 1998, Muhammad Ali was chosen as  
10 the “U.N. Messenger of Peace”.

11 (14) Several Presidents of the United States  
12 recognized Muhammad Ali, including President  
13 George W. Bush who, on November 17, 2002, called  
14 him “a man of peace” and stated that “across the  
15 world, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a  
16 brave, compassionate, and charming man, and the  
17 American people are proud to call Muhammad Ali  
18 one of our own”, President Bill Clinton who stated  
19 that Muhammad Ali “captured the world’s imagina-  
20 tion and its heart. Outside the ring, Muhammad Ali  
21 has dedicated his life to working for children, feed-  
22 ing the hungry, supporting his faith, and standing  
23 up for racial equality. He always fought for a just  
24 and more humane world, breaking down barriers  
25 here in America and around the world. There is no

1       telling how many tens of millions of people had their  
2       hearts swell with pride and their eyes swell with  
3       tears in 1996 when Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic  
4       torch, because we know, now and forever, he is the  
5       greatest”, President Jimmy Carter who cited Mu-  
6       hammad Ali as “Mr. International Friendship”, and  
7       President Barack Obama who, as a Senator, had a  
8       framed picture of Muhammad Ali hanging in his of-  
9       fice, and before announcing his intentions to run for  
10      President, Obama visited with Muhammad Ali at the  
11      Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

12           (15) Muhammad Ali encouraged humanity  
13      through his perseverance and the support of thou-  
14      sands of people. He helped such organizations as the  
15      Chicago-based adoption agency, The Cradle; the  
16      Make-A-Wish Foundation; the Special Olympics’ or-  
17      ganization, Best Buddies; and Herbert E. Birch  
18      Services, an organization that runs a school for  
19      handicapped children and young adults, in addition  
20      to a summer camp for children with AIDS.

21           (16) Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie were  
22      the founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Par-  
23      kinson Center in Phoenix, Arizona, and helped raise  
24      over \$50,000,000 for Parkinson’s research. The  
25      Center’s mission is to provide excellence in treat-

1       ment, research, and education for patients and fami-  
2       lies affected by Parkinson’s disease and other move-  
3       ment disorders, regardless of their ability to pay.

4           (17) Muhammad Ali was an inspiration to  
5       countless individuals with Parkinson’s disease, in-  
6       cluding members of the Rock Steady Boxing Foun-  
7       dation in Indianapolis, Indiana, which was founded  
8       to give people with Parkinson’s disease hope by im-  
9       proving their quality of life using boxing for fitness.

10          (18) Muhammad Ali was one of the founding  
11       members of Athletes for Hope, an organization cre-  
12       ated by a few very successful athletes of exemplary  
13       character who have a deep commitment to charitable  
14       and community causes.

15          (19) Muhammad Ali also established the Mu-  
16       hammad Ali Center in his hometown of Louisville,  
17       Kentucky, which promotes respect, hope, and under-  
18       standing, and inspires people everywhere to be as  
19       great as they can be. A visitor of the Muhammad Ali  
20       Center experiences the “hows” of Ali’s life: How he  
21       found the courage, the dedication, and the discipline  
22       to become a world champion; how he found the con-  
23       viction to stand up for what he believed; and how he  
24       turned his passion for excellence in the ring to a  
25       passion for peace on the world stage.

1           (20) Like Muhammad Ali himself, the Muham-  
2       mad Ali Center focuses on what brings individuals  
3       together, not what sets them apart, and is a “global  
4       gathering place” to which people can come, both on-  
5       line and in person, to learn, share, and celebrate our  
6       commonalities as human beings and to formulate  
7       ways of advancing humanity.

8           (21) Muhammad Ali helped to provide more  
9       than 22,000,000 aid packets to assist people in  
10      need, and until the last years of his life, he traveled,  
11      on average, more than 200 days per year for human-  
12      itarian causes.

13          (22) Muhammad Ali, known simply as “the  
14      greatest,” transcended the glamour and glory of  
15      being a sports champion to become not only one of  
16      the greatest sports figures, but one of the greatest  
17      role models of our time.

18          (23) On June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali died at  
19      the age of 74.

20   **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21      (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
22      the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
23      pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
24      for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold

1 medal of appropriate design, to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

9 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of Muhammad Ali under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to his wife, Lonnie Ali.

13 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

14 Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses) and the cost of the gold medal.

20 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

21 The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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