

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3085

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to American military personnel who fought in defense of Bataan, Corregidor, Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippine Archipelago between December 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who died or were imprisoned by the Japanese military in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from April 9, 1942, until September 2, 1945, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2017

Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico) 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 a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to American military personnel who fought in defense of Bataan, Corregidor, Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippine Archipelago between December 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who died or were imprisoned by the Japanese military in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and Guam from April 9, 1942, until September 2, 1945, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country.

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) Hours after the attacks on Pearl Harbor,
6 Hawaii, Imperial Japanese forces launched an at-
7 tack on the Philippines, cutting off vital lines of
8 communication to members of the Armed Forces of
9 the United States (referred to in this Act as the
10 “Armed Forces”) and Filipino troops in the Far
11 East under the command of General Douglas Mac-
12 Arthur.

13 (2) On May 6, 1942, Corregidor fell after a
14 weeklong siege and its defenders were surrendered.
15 On May 10, 1942, American forces under the com-
16 mand of Major General William F. Sharp surren-
17 dered after fighting the Japanese from April 29,
18 1942, to May 9, 1942, on the island of Mindanao in
19 the southernmost portion of the Philippine Archi-
20 pelago. It was on this date, May 10, 1942, that Gen-
21 eral Wainwright, as Supreme Allied Commander,
22 surrendered all Allied Forces in the Philippine Ar-
23 chipelago.

24 (3) Despite being cut off from supply lines and
25 reinforcements, members of the Armed Forces and

1 Philippine troops quickly executed a plan to delay
2 the Japanese invasion and defend the Philippines
3 against that invasion.

4 (4) By April 1942, troops from the United
5 States and the Philippines had bravely and staunch-
6 ly fought off enemy attacks in Bataan for more than
7 4 months under strenuous conditions that resulted
8 in widespread starvation and disease.

9 (5) By maintaining their position and engaging
10 the enemy for as long as they did, the troops at Ba-
11 taan were able to change the momentum of the war,
12 delaying the Japanese timetable to take control of
13 the Southeast Pacific for needed war materials. Be-
14 cause of the heroic actions of the defenders of Ba-
15 taan, members of the Armed Forces and other Allied
16 forces throughout the Pacific had time to regroup
17 and prepare for the successful liberation of the Pa-
18 cific and the Philippines.

19 (6) On April 9, 1942, Major General Edward
20 King, whose troops suffered from starvation and a
21 lack of supplies, surrendered the soldiers from the
22 United States and the Philippines into enemy hands.

23 (7) Over the next week, troops from the Armed
24 Forces and the Philippines were taken prisoner and
25 forced to march 65 miles without any food, water,

1 or medical care in what came to be known as the
2 “Bataan Death March”.

3 (8) During this forced march, thousands of sol-
4 diers died, either from starvation, lack of medical
5 care, sheer exhaustion, or abuse by their captors.

6 (9) Conditions at the prisoner of war camps
7 were appalling, leading to increased disease and mal-
8 nutrition among the prisoners.

9 (10) The prisoners at Camp O’Donnell died at
10 a rate of nearly 400 per day because of the poor
11 conditions of the camp.

12 (11) On June 6, 1942, the prisoners at Camp
13 O’Donnell were transferred to Camp Cabanatuan,
14 north of Camp O’Donnell.

15 (12) Nearly 26,000 of the 50,000 Filipino pris-
16 oners of war died at Camp O’Donnell and survivors
17 were gradually paroled from September through De-
18 cember 1942.

19 (13) Between September of 1942 and December
20 of 1944, prisoners of war from the Armed Forces
21 who had survived the horrific death march were
22 shipped north for forced labor aboard “hell ships”
23 and succumbed in great numbers because of the
24 abysmal conditions. Many of those ships were mis-
25 takenly targeted by Allied naval forces because the

1 Japanese military convoys were not properly labeled
2 as carrying prisoners of war. The sinking of the
3 Arisan Maru alone claimed nearly 1,800 lives of
4 members of the Armed Forces.

5 (14) The campus of the University of Santo
6 Tomas was converted to the Santo Tomas Intern-
7 ment Camp by the Japanese during their occupation
8 of the Philippines. Santo Tomas became the initial
9 internment camp for both the army and navy
10 nurses, with the army and navy nurses remaining
11 there until their liberation.

12 (15) The prisoners who remained in the camps
13 suffered from continued mistreatment, malnutrition,
14 lack of medical care, and horrific conditions until
15 they were liberated in 1945.

16 (16) The veterans of Bataan represented the
17 best of the United States and the Philippines, hailed
18 from various locales across both countries, and rep-
19 resented true diversity.

20 (17) Over the subsequent decades, the veterans
21 of Bataan formed support groups, were honored in
22 local and State memorials, and told their stories to
23 all people of the United States.

24 (18) The United States Navy has continued to
25 honor the history and stories of the veterans of Ba-

1 taan by naming 2 ships after the battle, including 1
2 ship that is still in service, the USS Bataan (LHD–
3 5), in memory of their valor and honorable resist-
4 ance against Imperial Japanese forces.

5 (19) Many of the survivors of Bataan have died
6 and those who remain continue to tell their stories.

7 (20) The people of the United States and the
8 Philippines are forever indebted to these men for—

9 (A) the courage and tenacity they dem-
10 onstrated during the first 4 months of World
11 War II fighting against enemy soldiers; and

12 (B) the perseverance they demonstrated
13 during 3 years of capture, imprisonment, and
14 atrocious conditions, while maintaining dignity,
15 honor, patriotism, and loyalty.

16 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

17 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
19 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
20 collective award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold
21 medal of appropriate design to American military per-
22 sonnel who fought in defense of Bataan, Corregidor,
23 Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippine Archipelago be-
24 tween December 7, 1941, and May 10, 1942, and who
25 died or were imprisoned by the Japanese military in the

1 Philippines, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Wake Island, and
2 Guam from April 9, 1942, until September 2, 1945, in
3 recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their
4 country.

5 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
6 award under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury
7 (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike
8 the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and in-
9 scriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

10 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
12 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
13 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
14 it shall be displayed as appropriate and made avail-
15 able for research.

16 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
17 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
18 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
19 available for display at other locations, particularly
20 at locations that are associated with the American
21 military personnel described under subsection (a).

22 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

23 (a) STRIKING OF DUPLICATES.—Under such regula-
24 tions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may

1 strike duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under
2 section 2.

3 (b) SELLING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may
4 sell such duplicates under subsection (a) at a price suffi-
5 cient to cover the costs of such duplicates, including labor,
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

7 (c) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
8 sale of duplicate bronze medals under subsection (b) shall
9 be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
10 Fund.

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

12 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
13 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
14 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. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There is authorized to be charged against the United
20 States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to
21 exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized
22 under section 2.

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