

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6681

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 24, 2018

Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in the United States.

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 “Aretha Franklin Con-
3 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Aretha Franklin was born on March 25,
7 1942, in Memphis, Tennessee, and died peacefully at
8 her home in Detroit, Michigan, surrounded by family
9 and loved ones on August 16, 2018.

10 (2) Aretha Franklin’s musical talents have in-
11 fluenced generations of musicians and political lead-
12 ers, creating a legacy that spans an incredible 6 dec-
13 ades.

14 (3) Aretha Franklin, dubbed the “Queen of
15 Soul”, was the first woman ever inducted into the
16 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, was a 2005 recipient
17 of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and was a
18 1999 recipient of the National Medal of Arts and
19 Humanities Award, among other accolades.

20 (4) Aretha Franklin’s music served as a 1960s
21 call to action that inspired thousands to join civil
22 rights movements and still resonates across these
23 movements today.

24 (5) Aretha Franklin’s contributions go beyond
25 music and arts.

1 (6) Aretha Franklin was also a philanthropist
2 who supported causes that advanced civil rights,
3 human health, and gender equality.

4 (7) Aretha Franklin’s talents instilled hope, up-
5 lifted generations, and changed the lives of millions
6 of people across the globe.

7 (8) The City of Detroit shaped Aretha’s life and
8 music, as her father and church introduced her to
9 local Motown artists.

10 (9) In return, Aretha made countless contribu-
11 tions to the City of Detroit, and few people have
12 played a greater role in shaping the Nation’s cul-
13 turally and socially relevant discography than Aretha
14 Franklin.

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

16 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
17 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
18 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
19 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
20 of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration
21 of Aretha Franklin, in recognition of her outstanding ar-
22 tistic and historical significance to the culture of the
23 United States.

24 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
25 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary

1 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
2 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
3 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
4 Secretary.

5 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

6 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
7 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
8 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
9 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
10 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
11 and the cost of the gold medal.

12 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

13 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
14 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
15 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
20 **SALE.**

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

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

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