

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3034

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Justin Smith Morrill, United States Senator of the State of Vermont, in recognition of his lasting contributions to higher education opportunity for all Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2017

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. KIND, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TURNER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WALZ, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEWART, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BOST, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. CONAWAY) 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 posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Justin Smith Morrill, United States Senator of the State of Vermont, in recognition of his lasting contributions to higher education opportunity for all Americans.

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 “Justin Smith Morrill
3 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that:

6 (1) Justin Smith Morrill, the son of a black-
7 smith and farmer, was born in Strafford, Vermont,
8 on April 14, 1810. He prospered as a merchant and
9 businessman in his early years and served in public
10 office the remainder of his life.

11 (2) Morrill, the longest serving Member of Con-
12 gress in the Nineteenth Century and Chairman of
13 the Committee on Ways and Means in the United
14 States House of Representatives and the Committee
15 on Finance in the United States Senate, served 5
16 terms in the United States House of Representa-
17 tives, from 1854 to 1869, and 6 terms in the United
18 States Senate, from 1872 to 1898.

19 (3) Morrill, inspired by his own lack of public
20 education opportunity beyond his fifteenth birthday,
21 proposed legislation that would set aside public lands
22 to be sold by the states to create and fund State-
23 run colleges.

24 (4) Congress enacted the First Morrill Act (7
25 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) on July 2, 1862, marking the
26 genesis of the national focus on higher education in

1 the United States through the establishment of the
2 land-grant institutions.

3 (5) Congress enacted the Second Morrill Act (7
4 U.S.C. 321 et seq.) on August 30, 1890, estab-
5 lishing what is now a flourishing system of histori-
6 cally Black land-grant colleges and universities
7 across the nation.

8 (6) Land-grant and other public research uni-
9 versities today award nearly 1,000,000 degrees an-
10 nually and perform more than \$37,000,000,000 of
11 research for improving the lives of Americans.

12 (7) In 1864, Morrill introduced House Joint
13 Resolution 66 which created the National Statuary
14 Hall from the Old Hall of the U.S. House of Rep-
15 resentatives and authorized the President of the
16 United States to invite States to submit two statues
17 of worthy citizens to be exhibited, which continues as
18 a daily inspiration to the thousands of visitors to the
19 United States Capitol.

20 (8) As chairman of the Committee on Buildings
21 and Grounds, Morrill served as principal advocate
22 for the construction and financing of the Thomas
23 Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress; for
24 inviting Frederick Law Olmstead to design the
25 present landscape of the Capitol; for planning the lo-

1 cation of the United States Supreme Court Building;
2 for raising funds to complete the Washington Monu-
3 ment; and for championing the Smithsonian Institu-
4 tion.

5 (9) In delivering his last speech as Senator just
6 two weeks before his death, Morrill noted that the
7 location of the United States Supreme Court in close
8 proximity to the United States Capitol and the Li-
9 brary of Congress “would form a harmonious group
10 of large public structures on Capitol Hill of un-
11 equaled grandeur, and will be appreciated by the
12 American people forever”.

13 (10) In his 1882 book “Self-Consciousness of
14 Noted Persons”, Morrill concluded, “The spur to ac-
15 quire some future reputation, to be earned by con-
16 scious fidelity, keeps the work of men always at its
17 best, the mechanic at the top of his skill, the mer-
18 chant ever mindful of the upright and downright in
19 trade; the pulpit and the bar it pushes on to effort
20 and to eloquence; it makes the soldier brave in bat-
21 tle, the politician ashamed not be a patriot, and the
22 statesman unwilling to give up to party what was
23 meant for mankind.”.

24 (11) After Morrill died on December 28, 1898,
25 eulogies extolled Morrill’s leadership, integrity and

1 good-will, including the comments of Senator George
2 Graham Vest of Missouri who stated, “If all those
3 to whom he did acts of kindness could whisper
4 across his grave, it would make an anthem sweeter
5 and more sonorous than any that ever pealed
6 through cathedral aisle” and those of Senator
7 George Hoar of Massachusetts who recalled that
8 Justin Morrill, “knew in his youth the veterans of
9 the Revolution and the generation who declared
10 independence and framed the Constitution. He knew
11 the whole history of his country from the time of her
12 independence, partly from the lips of those who
13 shaped it, partly because of the large share he had
14 in it himself.”.

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 the Con-
20 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-
21 ration of Justin Smith Morrill in recognition of his lasting
22 contributions to higher education opportunity for all
23 Americans.

24 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose 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—

3 (1) an inscription stating “A Statesman who
4 did not give up to party what was intended for hu-
5 mankind”; and

6 (2) suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions
7 to be determined by the Secretary.

8 (c) SMITHSONIAN.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
10 gold medal in honor of Justin Smith Morrill under
11 subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the
12 Smithsonian, where it shall be available for display
13 as appropriate and made available for research.

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
15 Congress that the Smithsonian should make the gold
16 medal received under paragraph (1) available for
17 display or for loan as appropriate so that it may be
18 displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appro-
19 priate locations associated with the life of Justin
20 Smith Morrill.

21 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

22 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
23 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
24 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
25 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,

1 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
2 and the cost of the gold medal.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
5 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
6 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

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