

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5561

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Barbara Rose Johns in recognition of her achievements and contributions to the Nation and civil rights.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2018

Mr. GARRETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Barbara Rose Johns in recognition of her achievements and contributions to the Nation and civil rights.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Barbara Johns Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Barbara Rose Johns was born in New York
9 City, New York, on March 6, 1935, and moved to

1 Prince Edward County, Virginia, where schools were
2 segregated among African American and White stu-
3 dents.

4 (2) On April 23, 1951, at the age of 16, Johns
5 led a student strike at Robert Russa Moton High
6 School in Prince Edward, Virginia, to protest the
7 substandard conditions which became the catalyst to
8 bring attention to the inequality of the segregated
9 school system.

10 (3) After securing legal support from the Na-
11 tional Association for the Advancement of Colored
12 People, these Moton students filed suit in *Davis v.*
13 *Prince Edward County*, the largest and only student
14 initiated case that was consolidated into *Brown v.*
15 *Board of Education*, the landmark 1954 United
16 States Supreme Court decision declaring segregation
17 and the “separate but equal” principle in public
18 schools to be unconstitutional.

19 (4) Johns furthered her education at Spelman
20 College and Drexel University. She continued her de-
21 sire for knowledge by eventually becoming a school
22 librarian. Johns went on to marry Rev. William
23 Powell and had five children. She passed away on
24 September 25, 1991, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
6 of a gold medal of appropriate design, in honor of Barbara
7 Rose Johns in recognition of her achievements and con-
8 tributions to the Nation and the civil rights.

9 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
10 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
11 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
12 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
13 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
14 retary.

15 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—
16 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of
17 Barbara Rose Johns pursuant to subsection (a), the gold
18 medal shall be given to the Robert Russa Moton Museum.

19 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
4 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
8 items.

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