

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to all Gold Star Families in recognition of their sacrifice and service to the United States.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to all Gold Star Families in recognition of their sacrifice and service to 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Families  
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The fortitude of Gold Star Families in the  
2           midst of tragedy strengthen the resolve of the  
3           United States.

4           (2) Since World War I, military families have  
5           used Gold Stars to memorialize their family mem-  
6           ber's sacrifice on behalf of the country, represent the  
7           devotion and pride of the family in this sacrifice,  
8           and glorify rather than grieve their military service.

9           (3) Gold Stars were first used by military fami-  
10          lies during World War I.

11          (4) When a family member passed away during  
12          their service, families would place a Gold Star on  
13          their Service Flag to represent the sacrifice the fam-  
14          ily had paid in the cause of freedom.

15          (5) On May 28, 1918, President Wilson ap-  
16          proved a suggestion made by the Women's Com-  
17          mittee of the Council of National Defenses that, in-  
18          stead of wearing conventional mourning garb for rel-  
19          atives who passed away during their military service,  
20          women would wear a black band with a gilt star on  
21          their left arm to signify each member of the family  
22          who gave their life for the United States.

23          (6) In 1928, 25 mothers of fallen  
24          servicemembers worked together to establish a na-  
25          tional organization to support those who had lost

1        their children during the war, which was known as  
2        the American Gold Star Mothers Inc. and officially  
3        incorporated in January 1929.

4            (7) Since September 1936, the United States  
5        has observed various recognized dates to support  
6        Gold Star Families and honor the legacy of fallen  
7        heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

8            (8) In 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt helped to estab-  
9        lish Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., a national or-  
10       organization to support the families left behind by the  
11       fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces  
12       who died on active duty or as a result of a service-  
13       connected disability.

14           (9) In August 1947, Congress authorized the  
15       issuance of gold star lapel pins to families who lost  
16       a loved one in combat.

17           (10) The extraordinary contribution of Gold  
18       Star Families is beyond measure, not merely for  
19       their loss, but the comfort they selflessly provide  
20       others and their model of service and sacrifice.

21           (11) Through their service, Gold Star Families  
22       keep alive the spirit of patriotism and love of coun-  
23       try and promote peace and good will for the United  
24       States and all other countries.

1           (12) Gold Star Families continue to perpetuate  
2           the memory of those who fought and died on behalf  
3           of the United States.

4           (13) Gold Star Families embody the purpose of  
5           the Congressional Gold Medal of honoring distin-  
6           guished contributions, recognizing virtues of patriot-  
7           ism, and remembering momentous occasions in his-  
8           tory.

9   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10          In this Act, the term “Gold Star Family” includes  
11          any individual described in section 3.2 of Department of  
12          Defense Instruction 1348.36.

13   **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

14          (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tem-  
15          pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
16          resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
17          award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of  
18          appropriate design to all Gold Star Families in recognition  
19          of their dedication, contributions, and sacrifice to the  
20          United States.

21          (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
22          award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall  
23          strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and  
24          inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

25          (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
2 gold medal in honor of Gold Star Families, the gold  
3 medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,  
4 where it will be available for display as appropriate  
5 and made available for research.

6           (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
7 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
8 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
9 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other  
10 appropriate locations associated with Gold Star  
11 Families.

12         (d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations that the  
14 Secretary may promulgate, the Secretary may strike  
15 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal  
16 struck under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover  
17 the costs of the medals, including labor, materials,  
18 dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

19           (2) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts re-  
20 ceived from the sale of duplicate medals under para-  
21 graph (1) shall be deposited in the United States  
22 Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

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

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

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