

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 632

To award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, in recognition of the ceaseless efforts of American aircrew members to escape captivity and evade capture by the enemy forces in occupied countries during our foreign wars, and the brave resistance organizations and patriotic nationals of those foreign countries who assisted them.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) 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 gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the U.S. Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, in recognition of the ceaseless efforts of American aircrew members to escape captivity and evade capture by the enemy forces in occupied countries during our foreign wars, and the brave resistance organizations and patriotic nationals of those foreign countries who assisted them.

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 “U.S. Air Forces Es-
5 cape and Evasion Society Recognition Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) During nearly all foreign wars, members of
9 our Air Force have been forced to eject, crash land,
10 or abandon their aircraft in an occupied country or
11 territory (referred to in this Act as “downed aircrew
12 members”).

13 (2) Those downed aircrew members had to
14 evade capture by enemy forces, often times while
15 suffering from critical injuries.

16 (3) Of the downed aircrew members that were
17 captured, many escaped from the enemy force that
18 was holding them.

19 (4) Many times, downed aircrew members were
20 aided in evasion and escape by resistance organiza-
21 tions and patriotic nationals in those occupied coun-
22 tries.

23 (5) Thousands of brave, ordinary people in the
24 occupied countries took extraordinary risks at huge
25 costs to help these aircrew members.

1 (6) Each downed aircrew member's story is dif-
2 ferent; however, the narrative for each member has
3 one common thread: American aircrew members
4 evading capture or escaping captivity with the assist-
5 ance of brave people living in an occupied country.

6 (7) In 1964, the U.S. Air Forces Escape and
7 Evasion Society (AFEES) was created by the
8 downed aircrew members who evaded capture by
9 enemy forces during foreign wars with the assistance
10 of resistance organizations and patriotic nationals in
11 occupied countries.

12 (8) AFEES includes downed aircrew members
13 and people who directly aided them in escape and
14 evasion, and has more than 600 members, including
15 members from World War II, the Korean War, and
16 the Vietnam War.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

18 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
20 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
21 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
22 medal of appropriate design in commemoration to the U.S.
23 Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, in recognition of
24 the ceaseless efforts of American aircrew members to es-
25 cape captivity and evade capture by the enemy forces in

1 occupied countries during our foreign wars, and the brave
2 resistance organizations and patriotic nationals of those
3 foreign countries who assisted them.

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

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 available for display as appropriate and
15 available for research.

16 (2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense
17 of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
18 should make the gold medal awarded pursuant to
19 this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly
20 at appropriate locations associated with the U.S. Air
21 Forces Escape and Evasion Society, and that pref-
22 erence should be given to locations affiliated with
23 the Smithsonian Institution.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

8 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
10 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
11 51 of title 31, United States Code.

12 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
13 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
14 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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