

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2655

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Captain James Arthur Lovell, Jr., (USN–Ret), in recognition of his service to our Nation and most notably, his leadership, bravery, and general significance to the advancement of United States space exploration.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2023

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

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Captain James Arthur Lovell, Jr., (USN–Ret), in recognition of his service to our Nation and most notably, his leadership, bravery, and general significance to the advancement of United States space exploration.

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 “Captain James A.  
5 Lovell, Jr., Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) In 1952, James A. Lovell, Jr., graduated  
2           from the Naval Academy and served with distinction  
3           in the U.S. Navy as a fighter pilot, later making im-  
4           portant contributions as a test pilot.

5           (2) As a crew member for the Gemini 7 mission  
6           and Commander for the Gemini 12 mission, Lovell  
7           played a critical role in these missions which were  
8           critical steps towards making the later Apollo lunar  
9           missions possible.

10          (3) On December 21, 1968, Apollo 8 launched  
11          from Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A,  
12          destined for lunar orbit. Lovell, William Anders, and  
13          Frank Borman became the first humans to reach  
14          the Moon's orbit; Apollo 8 successfully completed ten  
15          orbits around the Moon and safely returned to  
16          Earth on December 27, 1968.

17          (4) On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13, commanded  
18          by Lovell, with Jack Swigert as command module  
19          pilot and Fred Haise as lunar module pilot,  
20          launched from Kennedy Space Center Launch Com-  
21          plex 39A with the intention to be the third mission  
22          in history to land humans on the Moon.

23          (5) Two days into the mission, an explosion oc-  
24          curred, depleting the command module's air tanks,  
25          and leaving the ship with disruptions in water, elec-

1        tricity, fuel, and light supplies, with support and  
2        guidance from ground personnel, Lovell, Haise, and  
3        Swigert had to modify the ship's life support sys-  
4        tems and change Apollo 13's course to circle around  
5        the Moon before heading back to Earth.

6            (6) Lovell handwrote the orientation calcula-  
7        tions transferring them from the command module  
8        to the lunar module guidance system allowing the  
9        ship to stay on the correct trajectory.

10           (7) The three astronauts aboard Apollo 13 sur-  
11        vived on rations of water in freezing temperatures  
12        for four days in the lunar module while the ship  
13        traveled back towards Earth.

14           (8) On April 17, 1970, in large thanks to  
15        Lovell's leadership and NASA's ingenuity, Apollo 13  
16        reentered Earth's atmosphere and safely splashed  
17        down in the Pacific Ocean after a treacherous and  
18        uncertain journey back to Earth.

19           (9) The bravery, skill, and courage of the Apol-  
20        lo 13 astronauts, under the extraordinary leadership  
21        of Captain Lovell united the American people and  
22        reinvigorated interest in the Nation's space program.

23           (10) President Nixon awarded Lovell, Haise,  
24        and Swigert with the Presidential Medal of Freedom  
25        for their heroic work.

1           (11) Lovell went on to have a successful busi-  
2           ness career, becoming the CEO of Bay-Houston  
3           Towing Company, President of Fisk Telephone Sys-  
4           tems, Executive Vice President of Centel Corpora-  
5           tion in Chicago, and starting a restaurant with his  
6           family in Lake Forest, Illinois.

7           (12) Throughout his life, Lovell was a strong  
8           and effective advocate for science, the study of  
9           space, and the power of space exploration.

10          (13) Lovell continues to be an example of  
11          strength and wisdom in his community and through-  
12          out the country.

13 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

14          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
15          the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
16          pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
17          for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
18          medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Captain  
19          James Arthur Lovell, Jr., in recognition of his service to  
20          our Nation and most notably, his leadership, bravery, and  
21          general significance to the advancement of United States  
22          space exploration.

23          (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
24          presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
25          of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the

1 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
2 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
3 Secretary.

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

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

9 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

10 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medal struck pursuant  
11 to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter  
12 51 of title 31, United States Code.

13 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
14 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
15 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
16 items.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
18 **SALE.**

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

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—The amounts received  
25 from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under

- 1 section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint
- 2 Public Enterprise Fund.

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