

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2723

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY (for herself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LEE, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATAH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. OWENS, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FORD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SABO, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KUCINICH, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. FRANK, Ms. WATSON of California, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GRUCCI, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. WU, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BARCIA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. HOEFFEL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

# A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

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. FINDINGS.**

4       The Congress finds the following:

5           (1) Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.  
6       and his widow Coretta Scott King, as the first fam-  
7       ily of the civil rights movement, have distinguished  
8       records of public service to the American people and  
9       the international community.

10          (2) Dr. King preached a doctrine of nonviolent  
11       civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimina-  
12       tion, and racial injustice.

13          (3) Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott  
14       for 381 days to protest the arrest of Mrs. Rosa  
15       Parks and the segregation of the bus system of  
16       Montgomery, Alabama.

17          (4) In 1963, Dr. King led the march on Wash-  
18       ington, D.C., that was followed by his famous ad-  
19       dress, the “I Have a Dream” speech.

1           (5) Through his work and reliance on non-  
2 violent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the  
3 passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Vot-  
4 ing Rights Act of 1965.

5           (6) Despite efforts to derail his mission, Dr.  
6 King acted on his dream of America and succeeded  
7 in making the United States a better place.

8           (7) Dr. King was assassinated for his beliefs on  
9 April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

10          (8) Mrs. King stepped into the civil rights  
11 movement in 1955 during the Montgomery bus boy-  
12 cott and played an important role as a leading par-  
13 ticipant in the American civil rights movement.

14          (9) While raising 4 children, Mrs. King devoted  
15 herself to working alongside her husband for non-  
16 violent social change and full civil rights for African  
17 Americans.

18          (10) With a strong educational background in  
19 music, Mrs. King established and performed several  
20 Freedom Concerts, which were well received and  
21 combined prose and poetry narration with musical  
22 selections to increase awareness and understanding  
23 of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (of  
24 which Dr. King served as the first president).

1           (11) Mrs. King demonstrated composure in  
2 deep sorrow, as she led the Nation in mourning her  
3 husband after his brutal assassination.

4           (12) After the assassination, Mrs. King devoted  
5 all of her time and energy to developing and building  
6 the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center  
7 for Nonviolent Social Change as an enduring memo-  
8 rial to her husband's life and his dream of non-  
9 violent social change and full civil rights for all  
10 Americans.

11           (13) Under Mrs. King's guidance and direction,  
12 the Center has flourished. The Center was the first  
13 institution built in honor of an African American  
14 leader. It provides local, national, and international  
15 programs that have trained tens of thousands of  
16 people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods, and  
17 boasts the largest archive of the civil rights move-  
18 ment.

19           (14) Mrs. King led the massive campaign to es-  
20 tablish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday,  
21 and the holiday is now celebrated in more than 100  
22 countries.

23 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24           (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
25 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold

1 medal of appropriate design to Reverend Doctor Martin  
2 Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta  
3 Scott King in recognition of their service to the Nation.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
5 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
6 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
7 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
8 Secretary.

9 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike and sell  
11 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant  
12 to section 2 under such regulations as the Secretary may  
13 prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the  
14 duplicate medals and the gold medal (including labor, ma-  
15 terials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses).

16 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

17 The medals struck under this Act are national medals  
18 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

19 **SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

20 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is hereby authorized to  
21 be charged against the United States Mint Public Enter-  
22 prise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for  
23 the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
25 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be

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1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
2 Fund.

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