

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 3628

To authorize the President to present posthumously a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Sammy Davis, Jr. in recognition of his achievements and service to the Nation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2002

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to present posthumously a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Sammy Davis, Jr. in recognition of his achievements and service to the Nation.

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 “Sammy Davis, Jr. Rec-  
5       ognition Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Sammy Davis, Jr. was born on December 8,  
2           1925, in New York City, the son of vaudevillian Sam  
3           Davis and Chorine Elvera Sanchez.

4           (2) Sammy Davis, Jr. was trained in vaudeville,  
5           and also appeared in Broadway musicals and in  
6           movies and television.

7           (3) Sammy Davis, Jr. was tutored in tap danc-  
8           ing by the legendary Bill “Bojangles” Robinson.

9           (4) In 1930, at the age of 5, Sammy Davis, Jr.  
10          joined his family’s touring group, the Will Mastin  
11          Trio in a heavy schedule of singing, dancing, and  
12          doing impressions in hotels and night clubs, and un-  
13          like many young stars of successful groups, he didn’t  
14          break away on his own, but remained with the fam-  
15          ily trio for 20 years.

16          (5) With the vaudeville circuit virtually dead,  
17          Sammy Davis, Jr. spent years appearing in night-  
18          clubs in Hollywood and the new desert oasis of Las  
19          Vegas.

20          (6) Growing up in the years of rigid segrega-  
21          tion, Sammy Davis, Jr. was an active supporter of  
22          the civil rights movement throughout his life.

23          (7) Sammy Davis, Jr. left behind a rich body  
24          of work including 40 albums and more than 20  
25          films, including his portrayal of Sportin’ Life in the

1 1959 film “Porgy and Bess” and his role as a vet-  
2 eran hooper in his last movie “Tap” in 1989.

3 (8) Sammy Davis, Jr. had an amazing number  
4 of live performances in such shows as “Mr. Wonder-  
5 ful”, which ran for 383 performances and was fol-  
6 lowed by “Golden Boy” which clocked an impressive  
7 569 performances.

8 (9) Sammy Davis, Jr. was also the author of 2  
9 autobiographies, “Yes I Can” and “Why Me?”.

10 (10) Sammy Davis, Jr. continued to perform in  
11 clubs and theaters and during the last few years of  
12 his life was the subject of many tributes, including  
13 a star-studded television bash which marked his  
14 60th year in show business and induction into the  
15 Tap Dancing Hall of Fame.

16 (11) Sammy Davis, Jr. was a versatile and dy-  
17 namic singer, dancer, and actor who overcame ex-  
18 traordinary obstacles to become a leading American  
19 entertainer.

20 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President  
22 may present posthumously, on behalf of the Congress, a  
23 gold medal of appropriate design to a surviving family  
24 member of Sammy Davis, Jr.

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

6 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATES.**

7 The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell  
8 duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant  
9 to section 3 under such regulations as the Secretary may  
10 prescribe, and at a price sufficient to cover the costs there-  
11 of, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and  
12 overhead expenses, and the cost of the bronze medal.

13 **SEC. 5. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

14 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national  
15 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
16 States Code.

17 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

18 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
19 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
20 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000  
21 to pay for the costs of the medals authorized by this Act.

22 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
23 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be

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

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