

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1278

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Shirley Chisholm.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2009

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

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to
Shirley Chisholm.

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 “Shirley Chisholm Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Shirley Chisholm was a pioneer: She was
9 the first African-American woman elected to Con-
10 gress in 1968 where she served until 1982.

1 (2) Shirley Chisholm inspired and led the
2 march of political achievement by African-Americans
3 and women in the three decades since she ran for
4 the Presidency of the United States.

5 (3) Her election to Congress and her candidacy
6 for the Presidency raised the profile and aspirations
7 of all African-Americans and women in the field of
8 politics.

9 (4) Shirley Chisholm was recognized for her ac-
10 tivism, independence, and ground-breaking achieve-
11 ments in politics during and after the civil rights
12 era.

13 (5) Shirley Chisholm was born in Brooklyn,
14 New York, on November 30, 1924, attended Brook-
15 lyn College, and earned a Master's degree from Co-
16 lumbia University.

17 (6) Shirley Chisholm worked in education and
18 social services before being elected to the New York
19 State Assembly in 1964.

20 (7) Shirley Chisholm established the Unity
21 Democratic Club in 1960, which played a significant
22 role in rallying black and Hispanic voters in New
23 York City.

24 (8) In 1969, Shirley Chisholm began her service
25 in the 91st Congress, representing Brooklyn's 12th

1 Congressional District in the United States House of
2 Representatives.

3 (9) During her service in the House of Rep-
4 resentatives, Shirley Chisholm promoted the employ-
5 ment of women in Congress and was vocal in her
6 support of civil rights, women's rights, and the poor,
7 while fervently opposing the Vietnam War.

8 (10) In 1972, Shirley Chisholm was the first
9 African-American to seek the nomination of a major
10 party for President of the United States.

11 (11) Shirley Chisholm was a co-founder of the
12 National Organization for Women.

13 (12) An historic figure in American political
14 history, Shirley Chisholm died at the age of 80 in
15 Ormond Beach, Florida, on New Year's Day, 2005.

16 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

17 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
18 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
19 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
20 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-
21 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-
22 ration of Shirley Chisholm, in recognition of her activism,
23 independence, and ground-breaking achievements in poli-
24 tics, her election as the first African-American woman in
25 the Congress, and her campaign to be the first African-

1 American to gain the nomination of a major political party
2 for President of the United States.

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

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

10 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
11 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
12 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
13 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
14 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
15 and the cost of the gold medal.

16 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

17 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
18 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
19 51 of title 31, United States Code.

20 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
21 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
22 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
5 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
10 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
11 Enterprise Fund.

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