

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3700

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Louis Zamperini, U.S. Olympian and World War II prisoner of war, for his service to the country, sacrifice during the war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as a survivor.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2011

Mr. McCAUL 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 Louis Zamperini, U.S. Olympian and World War II prisoner of war, for his service to the country, sacrifice during the war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as a survivor.

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 “Louis Zamperini Con-  
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Louis Zamperini was born in Olean, New  
2           York, on January 26, 1917, and was raised in Tor-  
3           rance, California.

4           (2) Louis Zamperini attended the University of  
5           Southern California where, in 1934, he set a world  
6           interscholastic record for the mile, clocking in at  
7           00:04:21.2 at the preliminary meet to the State  
8           championships.

9           (3) Louis Zamperini ran the 5,000 meter dis-  
10          tance event in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin,  
11          Germany, the fastest time for an American in the  
12          5,000 distance race that year.

13          (4) Selflessly, Louis Zamperini left a promising  
14          career as an Olympic athlete and enlisted in the  
15          United States Army Air Corps in September 1941.

16          (5) While on a rescue mission in 1943,  
17          Zamperini along with Russel Allen “Phil” Philips  
18          and Francis McNamara of the 42nd Bombardment  
19          Squadron, 11th Bombardment Group survived a  
20          deadly crash of their B-24 bomber, named Green  
21          Hornet.

22          (6) Zamperini survived 47 days at sea, drifting  
23          approximately 2,000 miles across the Pacific Ocean  
24          only to wash ashore on the Marshall Islands, where

1 he and Phillips were taken prisoner of war by the  
2 Japanese military.

3 (7) For over two years, Zamperini endured the  
4 horrific conditions of his captivity in several Japa-  
5 nese P.O.W. camps, where he was singled out by  
6 guards for extreme forms of torture because of his  
7 celebrity status as an Olympic athlete.

8 (8) Though the War Department notified his  
9 family that Zamperini was killed in action,  
10 Zamperini survived his captivity and returned home  
11 upon the liberation of Japan.

12 (9) For his distinguished service during World  
13 War II, Captain Zamperini was awarded the Purple  
14 Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and a Pris-  
15 oner of War Medal.

16 (10) Louis Zamperini overcame severe post  
17 traumatic stress disorder from his time as a prisoner  
18 of war to dedicate his life to inspiring others and  
19 being an example for other soldiers to follow.

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

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
22 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
23 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
24 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
25 medal of appropriate design to Louis Zamperini, in rec-

1 ognition of his service to the country, sacrifice during the  
2 war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as  
3 a survivor.

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. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-  
11 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate  
12 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to  
13 section 3 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-  
14 cient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals (including  
15 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-  
16 penses) and the cost of the gold medal.

17 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

18 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
19 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
20 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

1 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

2 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF CHARGES.**—There is author-  
3 ized to be charged against the United States Mint Public  
4 Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay  
5 for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

6 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
7 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be  
8 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
9 Fund.

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