

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 742

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Giuseppe Garibaldi and to Recognize the Republic of Italy on the 150th Anniversary of its Unification.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

Mr. GRIMM (for himself, Mr. PASCARELL, and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Giuseppe Garibaldi and to Recognize the Republic of Italy on the 150th Anniversary of its Unification.

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) Giuseppe Garibaldi was born on July 4,  
6 1807 in Nice.

7 (2) Garibaldi's family's involvement in coastal  
8 trade drew him to a life at sea. He was certified in  
9 1832 as a merchant marine captain.

1           (3) As a young man Garibaldi joined the move-  
2           ment of La Giovine Italia (“Young Italy”) which  
3           was founded by Giuseppe Mazzini, who was an im-  
4           passioned proponent of Italian unification.

5           (4) Garibaldi participated in various independ-  
6           ence struggles throughout Central and South Amer-  
7           ica.

8           (5) Garibaldi came to the United States where  
9           he applied for citizenship and began learning  
10          English. He lived for a time with inventor Antonio  
11          Meucci in his home in Staten Island, New York.

12          (6) The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum is a place  
13          where Italian-American heritage and culture can be  
14          celebrated as well as where the lives of Giuseppe  
15          Garibaldi and Antonio Meucci can be remembered.

16          (7) The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum was listed on  
17          the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in  
18          1980.

19          (8) In 1854, Giuseppe Garibaldi left Staten Is-  
20          land, New York and returned to Italy as the com-  
21          mander in the conflicts of the Risorgimento to lead  
22          military forces that would provide for the unification  
23          of Italy.

24          (9) The Risorgimento’s progress was eagerly  
25          followed in a United States ideologically opposed to

1 European dynastic “tyranny”. The victory was  
2 viewed in this country as a powerful vindication of  
3 the right of the individual to political self-determina-  
4 tion.

5 (10) Giuseppe Garibaldi, who led Italy to unifi-  
6 cation in 1861, was offered a command as Major  
7 General in the Union Army by President Abraham  
8 Lincoln. Garibaldi declined, but to honor him, the  
9 39th New York Infantry was known as “The Gari-  
10 baldi Guard”. About 150 of its 850 men were  
11 Italian. It fought in the Union Army from Bull Run  
12 to Appomattox.

13 (11) Garibaldi was an active freemason, and  
14 thought of masonry as a network to unite men as  
15 brothers both within nations and as members of a  
16 global community.

17 (12) Garibaldi spent the rest of his life in  
18 Caprera with his wife, Francesca Armosino, and  
19 their children and family members. He died on June  
20 2, 1882.

21 (13) Giuseppe Garibaldi is one of the most sym-  
22 bolic figures of the Republic of Italy and a national  
23 hero. Five Italian Navy ships have been named after  
24 him, including the Italian navy’s current flagship,  
25 the aircraft carrier “Giuseppe Garibaldi”.

1           (14) On March 17, 2011, the Republic of Italy  
2 will officially celebrate Italy's 150th Anniversary  
3 with a series of activities across the nation of Italy,  
4 in Washington, DC and throughout the United  
5 States to highlight the unique partnership between  
6 Italy and the United States. As long time allies,  
7 both nations share a common set of values, historical  
8 ties, and cultural relations that span multiple cen-  
9 turies.

10           (15) From the arts and sciences to political  
11 thinking and beyond, the lives and ideas of great  
12 men like Andrea Palladio and Thomas Jefferson,  
13 Benjamin Franklin and Antonio Meucci, and  
14 Giuseppe Garibaldi and Abraham Lincoln have in-  
15 spired and enlightened one another.

16           (16) Today, the legacy of immigrants is found  
17 throughout the United States in the millions of  
18 American men, women and children of Italian de-  
19 scent and the community organizations such as the  
20 National Italian American Foundation and others  
21 that serve to strengthen and enrich our country.

22           (17) Upon arrival to a new home, the Italian  
23 American community faced racial, social, and reli-  
24 gious discrimination. Yet, Italian Americans per-  
25 severed with hope and hard work to reach the Amer-

1        ican dream, flourished in all areas of public and eco-  
2        nomic life, and helped build our great country while  
3        preserving their proud Italian traditions. As proud  
4        service members, they have also defended the liberty  
5        and integrity of the United States of America since  
6        the Revolutionary War, during both World Wars, the  
7        wars in Vietnam, Korea and the Persian Gulf up  
8        until today’s current conflicts.

9        **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

10        (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—

11                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Speaker of the House of  
12        Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of  
13        the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for  
14        the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
15        medal of appropriate design in recognition of the  
16        contributions of Giuseppe Garibaldi to the Nation.

17                (2) DISPLAY OF MEDAL IN CAPITOL VISITOR  
18        CENTER.—The Architect of the Capitol shall arrange  
19        for the gold medal presented under this subsection  
20        to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center as part  
21        of an exhibit honoring Giuseppe Garibaldi.

22        (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
23        presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
24        of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-  
25        retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,

1 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-  
2 retary.

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

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2  
6 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
7 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
9 and the cost of the gold medal.

10 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under  
12 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51  
13 of title 31, United States Code.

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

18 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**

19 **SALE.**

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

1           (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
2 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
3 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
4 Enterprise Fund.

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