

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5621

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during WWII.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 5, 2016

Mr. PASCARELL (for himself, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during WWII.

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 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Larry Doby was born in Camden, South  
6 Carolina, on December 12, 1923, and moved to  
7 Paterson, New Jersey, in 1938, where he became a

1       standout four sport athlete at Paterson Eastside  
2       High School.

3               (2) Larry Doby attended Long Island Univer-  
4       sity on a basketball scholarship before enlisting in  
5       the United States Navy during WWII.

6               (3) Upon his honorable discharge from the  
7       Navy in 1946, Larry Doby played baseball in the  
8       Negro League for the Newark Eagles. After playing  
9       the 1946 season, Larry Doby's contract was pur-  
10      chased by the Cleveland Indians of the American  
11      League on July 3, 1947.

12              (4) On July 5, 1947, Larry Doby became the  
13      first African-American to play in the American  
14      League.

15              (5) Larry Doby played in the American League  
16      for 13 years, appearing in 1,533 games and batting  
17      .283, with 253 home runs and 969 runs batted in.

18              (6) Larry Doby was voted to seven all-star  
19      teams, led the American League in home runs twice,  
20      and played in two World Series; he was the first Af-  
21      rican-American to play in the World Series and to  
22      hit a home run in a World Series game, both in  
23      1948.

24              (7) After his stellar playing career ended, Larry  
25      Doby continued to make a significant contribution to

1 his community; he has been a pioneer in the cause  
2 of civil rights and has received honorary doctorate  
3 degrees from Long Island University, Princeton Uni-  
4 versity, and Fairfield University.

5 (8) In 1978, Larry Doby became the manager  
6 of the Chicago White Sox, only the second African-  
7 American manager of a Major League team.

8 (9) Larry Doby was the Director of Community  
9 Relations for the National Basketball Association's  
10 New Jersey Nets, where he was deeply involved in  
11 a number of inner-city youth programs.

12 (10) Larry Doby was elected to the National  
13 Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

14 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
16 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
17 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
18 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,  
19 of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Larry Doby in  
20 recognition of his achievements and contributions to  
21 American major league athletics, civil rights and the  
22 Armed Forces during WWII.

23 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
24 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
25 of the Treasury (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the

1 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
2 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the  
3 Secretary.

4 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDAL AFTER PRESENTATION.—  
5 Following the presentation of the gold medal in honor of  
6 Larry Doby under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be  
7 given to his son, Larry Doby, Jr.

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

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

15 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

19 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
20 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals  
21 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
22 items.

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