

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9419

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Peter McGuire in recognition of
his contributions to the American Labor Movement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 27, 2024

Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Peter McGuire
in recognition of his contributions to the American Labor
Movement.

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 “Peter McGuire Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds following:

1 (1) Peter McGuire’s advocacy for the American
2 Labor Movement led to great gains for American
3 workers and their ability to organize and collectively
4 bargain, especially in wages, worker solidarity, and
5 the movement for the 8-hour workday.

6 (2) Peter McGuire is known as the “Father of
7 Labor Day and of May Day” for his contributions
8 to American workers.

9 (3) Mr. McGuire is recognized for building the
10 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of
11 America into a powerful force advocating for Amer-
12 ican workers, and one of the most powerful labor or-
13 ganizations in the world.

14 (4) Within 2 years, Mr. McGuire’s St. Louis
15 carpenters achieved such impressive success and
16 wage gains that it attracted the attention of car-
17 penters across the United States.

18 (5) In 1881, Mr. McGuire called for a national
19 meeting of carpenters’ unions in Chicago which re-
20 sulted in the formation of the United Brotherhood
21 of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and was
22 elected the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and
23 Joiners of America’s Chief Administrative Officer.

24 (6) In 1881, Mr. McGuire wrote the convention
25 call for the national conference of labor unions that

1 established the Federation of Organized Trades and
2 Labor Unions, which, in 1886, reorganized into the
3 American Federation of Labor.

4 (7) Mr. McGuire was elected the first Secretary
5 of the American Federation of Labor.

6 (8) Mr. McGuire advocated admirably for an 8-
7 hour workday, and his action resulted in meaningful
8 gains for the 8-hour workday movement. Mr.
9 McGuire led impactful strikes in 1886 and 1890,
10 which put the 8-hour workday on the minds of the
11 American public. The latter strike resulted in espe-
12 cially impressive gains for workers, and one of the
13 most successful strikes of the 19th century: over
14 23,000 carpenters in 36 cities gained the 8-hour
15 workday, and 32,000 others gained the nine-hour
16 workday.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

18 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
20 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
21 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
22 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of Peter
23 McGuire in recognition of his contributions to the Amer-
24 ican Labor Movement.

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

7 (c) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
 9 gold medal in honor of Peter McGuire, the gold
 10 medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution
 11 National Museum of American History, where it will
 12 be available for display as appropriate and available
 13 for research.

14 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
 15 Congress that the National Museum of American
 16 History should make the gold medal awarded pursu-
 17 ant to this Act available for display elsewhere, par-
 18 ticularly at appropriate locations associated with the
 19 American Labor Movement or the Gilded Age.

20 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
 22 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price
 23 sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, mate-
 24 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to
3 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
4 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
8 items.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
10 **SALE.**

11 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
13 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
14 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
15 this Act.

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
18 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
19 Enterprise Fund.

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