

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 360 , with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 360

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where these 4 little Black girls' ultimate sacrifice served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2013

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. LEWIS, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where these 4 little Black girls' ultimate sacrifice served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress Finds the following:

3 (1) September 15, 2013 will mark 50 years
4 since the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair,
5 Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were sud-
6 denly taken by a bomb planted in the Sixteenth
7 Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

8 (2) The senseless and premature death of these
9 4 little Black girls sparked “The Movement that
10 Changed the World.”

11 (3) On that tragic Sunday in September of
12 1963, the world took notice of the violence inflicted
13 in the struggle for equal rights.

14 (4) The fact that 4 innocent children lost their
15 lives as they prepared for Sunday School shook the
16 world’s conscience.

17 (5) This tragedy galvanized the Civil Rights
18 Movement and sparked a surge of momentum that
19 helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of
20 1964 and later the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by
21 President Lyndon B. Johnson.

22 (6) Justice was delayed for these 4 little Black
23 girls and their families until 2002, 39 years after
24 the bombing, when the last of the 4 Klansmen re-
25 sponsible for the bombing was charged and convicted
26 of the crime.

1 (7) The 4 little Black girls are emblematic of
2 so many who have lost their lives for the cause of
3 freedom and equality, including Virgil Ware and
4 James Johnny Robinson who were children also
5 killed within hours of the 1963 church bombing.

6 (8) The legacy that these 4 little Black girls left
7 will live on in the minds and hearts of us all for gen-
8 erations to come.

9 (9) Their extraordinary sacrifice sparked real
10 and lasting change as Congress began to aggres-
11 sively pass legislation that ensured equality.

12 (10) Sixteenth Street Baptist Church remains a
13 powerful symbol of the movement for civil and
14 human rights and will host the 50th anniversary
15 ceremony on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

16 (11) It is befitting that Congress bestow the
17 highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold
18 Medal, in 2013 to the 4 little Black girls, Addie Mae
19 Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cyn-
20 thia Wesley, posthumously in recognition of the 50th
21 commemoration of the historical significance of the
22 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

23 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-

1 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
2 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
3 medal of appropriate design to commemorate the lives of
4 Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and
5 Cynthia Wesley.

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

12 (c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the
13 gold medal described in subsection (a), the medal shall be
14 given to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Bir-
15 mingham, AL, where it shall be available for display or
16 temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, as appropriate.

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

18 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
19 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price
20 sufficient to cover the costs of the medal, including labor,
21 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
22 and amounts received from the sale of such duplicates
23 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enter-
24 prise Fund.

1 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
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.