I

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, HR. 1628, with an Amendment

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

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1628

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 761st Tank Battalion, collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the success of Allied forces in Europe and for the example they set as the first Black soldiers to go to war as part of an American armored unit.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mr. PALMER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. ESTES, Mrs. BICE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama) 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 the 761st Tank Battalion, collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the success of Allied forces in Europe and for the example they set as the first Black soldiers to go to war as part of an American armored unit.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''761st Tank Battalion Congressional Gold Medal Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The 761st Tank Battalion, known as the ''Black Panthers'', was activated on April 1, 1942, and served as the first predominantly Black American armored battalion in the European Theater of World War II until its deactivation on June 1, 1946, in Germany.

(2) Lieutenant Jackie Robinson, the first Black Major League baseball player, was among the few Black officers in the 761st, but he was court martialed before seeing combat for an act of civil disobedience in refusing to move to the back of a bus.

(3) Despite resistance from many top-level American politicians and military officers, the 761st served valiantly under Lieutenant General George S. Patton.

(4) In his welcoming speech, Patton said, ''I would never have asked for you if you weren't good. I have nothing but the best in my Army. I don't care what color you are as long as you go up there and kill those. . .''.

(5) After entering combat in late fall 1944, the 761st lived up to their motto, ''Come Out Fighting'', enduring 183 days of combat without being pulled from the line.

(6) The 761st played a crucial role in numerous battles including the Battle of the Bulge and helped break out the encircled American paratroopers in the town of Bastogne.

(7) During their time in combat, the 761st inflicted 130,000 casualties on the Germans while enduring a casualty rate of almost 50 percent with the loss of 71 tanks.

(8) As the spearhead for several of Patton's moves toward Germany, they were the first American unit to break through the Siegfried Line and they were one of the first American units to link up with the Russian Army at the Enns River at Steyr, Austria.

(9) Sadly, like other Black soldiers in World War II, members of the 761st did not receive the recognition that was due them upon returning home, and instead faced prejudice at home after the war.

(10) The accomplishments of the 761st were largely unrecognized until 1978 when, over three

decades after the war, the battalion finally received a Presidential Unit Citation.

(11) The citation acknowledges ''the extraordinary gallantry, courage, professionalism, and high esprit de corps displayed in the accomplishment of unusually difficult and hazardous operations in the European Theater of Operations''.

(12) In addition to that citation, individual members of the 761st had earned the following: 1 Medal of Honor, 11 Silver Stars, and approximately 300 Purple Hearts.

(13) The United States is eternally grateful to the soldiers of the 761st Tank Battalion for their crucial role in the success of Allied forces in Europe and for helping ensure freedom around the globe.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to the 761st Tank Battalion, collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the success of Allied forces in Europe and for the example they set as the first Black soldiers to go to war as part of an American armored unit.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, where the medal shall be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Museum of African American History and Culture should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the 761st Tank Battalion.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

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

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

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

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

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