

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, HR. 537, with an amendment
(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a
new text)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 537

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of
their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2023

Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in
recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Hol-
ocaust.

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 “Forgotten Heroes of
5 the Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The following diplomats will be honored
4 posthumously: Per Anger (Sweden), Jose Maria
5 Barreto (Peru), Lars Berg (Sweden), Philippe
6 Bernardini (Vatican / Italy), Hiram (Harry) Bing-
7 ham IV (United States), Friedrich Born (Switzer-
8 land), Manuel Antonio Muñoz Borrero (Ecuador),
9 Carlos de Liz-Texeira Branquinho (Portugal),
10 Eduardo Propper de Callejón (Spain), Samuel del
11 Campo (Chile), Aracy Moebius Carvalho de
12 Guimarães Rosa (Brazil), José Arturo Castellanos
13 (El Salvador), Carl Ivan Danielsson (Sweden), Luis
14 Martins de Souza Dantas (Brazil), Georg Ferdinand
15 Duckwitz (Germany), Harald Feller (Switzerland),
16 Francis (Frank) Foley (United Kingdom), Jean-
17 Edouard Friedrich (Switzerland), Carlos Almeida
18 Afonseca de Sampaio Garrido (Portugal), Raymond
19 Herman Geist (United States), Feng-Shan Ho
20 (China), Constantin Karadja (Romania), Alexander
21 Kasser (Sándor Kasza) (Sweden / Hungary), Elow
22 Kihlgren (Sweden), Joseph Willem (Joop) Kolkman
23 (Netherlands), Julius Kühl (Switzerland),
24 Aleksander Ładoś (Poland), Valdemar Langlet (Swe-
25 den), Charles (Carl) Lutz (Switzerland), George
26 Mandel-Mantello (El Salvador), Florian Manoliu

1 (Romania), Aristides de Sousa Mendes (Portugal),
2 Salomon Jacob (Sally) Noach (Netherlands), Giorgio
3 (Jorge) Perlasca (Spain / Italy), Ernst Prodolliet
4 (Switzerland), Franjo Punčuch (Yugoslavia / Slo-
5 venia), Sebastián de Romero Radigales (Spain),
6 Konstanty Rokicki (Poland), Angelo Giuseppe
7 Roncalli (Vatican / Italy), Angelo Rotta (Vatican /
8 Italy), Albert Emile Routier (Turkey), Stefan
9 Ryniewicz (Poland), Gilberto Bosques Saldívar
10 (Mexico), José Ruiz Santaella (Spain), Ángel Sanz-
11 Briz (Spain), Abdol-Hossein Sardari (Iran), Henryk
12 Slawik (Poland), Robert Smallbones (United King-
13 dom), Ján Spišiak (Slovakia), Chiune (Sempo)
14 Sugihara (Japan), Ireanaeus Typaldos (Spain),
15 Alexander (Sándor) Újváry (Vatican / Hungary),
16 Selahattin Ülkümen (Turkey), Gennaro Verolino
17 (Vatican / Italy), Vladimír Vochoč (Czech Republic),
18 Ernst Vonrufs (Switzerland), Raoul Wallenberg
19 (Sweden), Guelfo Zamboni (Italy), Peter Zürcher
20 (Switzerland), and Jan Zwartendijk (Holland).

21 (2) On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler and
22 the Nazis began their invasion of Europe, which
23 started World War II and threw the world into
24 chaos. The Nazi plan of mass murder of the Jewish
25 population was in full motion. As battles were being

1 fought between countries, Jews were being rounded
2 up and sent to concentration camps throughout Eu-
3 rope. This process began a mass exodus of people
4 out of Europe, especially those in the Jewish com-
5 munity.

6 (3) During the war, members of the Jewish
7 community used every tool and means at their dis-
8 posal to flee Nazi tyranny. Thousands tried to flee
9 on trains or boats to escape from Europe.

10 (4) While the armies of countries were fighting
11 each other, a handful of diplomats, from around the
12 world, stepped forward and took heroic actions to
13 save Jews fleeing Europe. This was an incredibly
14 dangerous process. If the Nazis discovered the ac-
15 tions of these diplomats they would be expelled, as
16 a few of them were. Also, while worrying about the
17 Nazis, diplomats had to worry about their careers
18 and livelihoods back home. Many of them had strict
19 orders from their home countries to not aid the Jew-
20 ish population in any way.

21 (5) These diplomats used every means at their
22 disposal to help Jews fleeing persecution. One of the
23 most powerful tools the diplomats had to use was
24 the issuing of passports and travel visas contrary to
25 the instruction of the governments of the diplomats.

1 This process alone is responsible for saving hundreds
2 of thousands of Jewish families in Europe. This was
3 not the only tool used as many of the diplomats were
4 connected with the local populations and were great
5 communicators for Jews trying to travel under-
6 ground. They were able set up safehouses and
7 getaways to hide Jews and especially Jewish children
8 from Nazi authorities. In the most dangerous of
9 times, several of these diplomats confronted the
10 Nazis directly on behalf of the Jews and personally
11 put themselves in grave danger.

12 (6) Every diplomat knew the dangers and knew
13 what they were up against, and still pushed forward
14 to save those in the most danger.

15 (7) The Congressional Gold Medal authorized
16 under this Act will help remind humanity that when
17 the diplomats were faced with terrible crises, they
18 went beyond the fold, including risking their careers
19 and the lives of themselves and their families, to en-
20 gage in this humanitarian mission. The diplomats of
21 today and future generations can look towards these
22 heroes and be inspired by their lives of heroism and
23 sacrifice.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single
6 gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the 60 dip-
7 lomats identified in section 2(1), in recognition of their
8 brave and vital service of saving Jews during World War
9 II.

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

16 (c) PRESENTATION OF MEDAL.—The single gold
17 medal presented under subsection (a) shall be presented
18 collectively to the eldest next of kin of each of the 60 dip-
19 lomats identified in section 2(1), who shall receive the
20 medal as part of a delegation consisting of a senior official
21 representative of the country that each diplomat served
22 and the cochairs of the Forgotten Heroes of the Holocaust
23 Committee.

24 (d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-
25 SEUM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
2 gold medal in honor of the 60 diplomats identified
3 in section 2(1), the gold medal shall be given to the
4 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where
5 it will be available for display as appropriate and
6 available for research.

7 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
8 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-
9 rial Museum should make the gold medal awarded
10 pursuant to this Act available for display elsewhere,
11 particularly at appropriate locations associated with
12 Holocaust remembrance.

13 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

18 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

22 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
23 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
24 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
25 items.

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

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
7 this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
10 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
11 Enterprise Fund.