

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2689

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Andrew Jackson Higgins (posthumously), and to the D-day Museum in recognition of the contributions of Higgins Industries and the more than 30,000 employees of Higgins Industries to the Nation and to world peace during World War II.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7 (legislative day, JUNE 6), 2000

Ms. LANDRIEU introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Andrew Jackson Higgins (posthumously), and to the D-day Museum in recognition of the contributions of Higgins Industries and the more than 30,000 employees of Higgins Industries to the Nation and to world peace during World War II.

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 “Andrew Jackson Hig-

5       gins Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Andrew Jackson Higgins was born on Au-  
4 gust 28, 1886, in Columbus, Nebraska, moved to  
5 New Orleans in 1910, and formed Higgins Indus-  
6 tries on September 26, 1930.

7 (2) Andrew Jackson Higgins designed, engi-  
8 neered, and produced the “Eureka”, a unique shal-  
9 low draft boat the design of which evolved during  
10 World War II into 2 basic classes of military craft:  
11 high speed PT boats, and types of Higgins landing  
12 craft (LCPs, LCPLs, LCVPs, LCMs and LCSs).

13 (3) Andrew Jackson Higgins designed, engi-  
14 neered, and constructed 4 major assembly line  
15 plants in New Orleans for mass production of Hig-  
16 gins landing craft and other vessels vital to the Al-  
17 lied Forces’ conduct of World War II.

18 (4) Andrew Jackson Higgins bought the entire  
19 1940 Philippine mahogany crop and other material  
20 purely at risk without a government contract, antici-  
21 pating that America would join World War II and  
22 that Higgins Industries would need the wood to  
23 build landing craft. Higgins also bought steel, en-  
24 gines, and other material necessary to construct  
25 landing craft.

1           (5) Andrew Jackson Higgins, through Higgins  
2 Industries, employed a fully integrated assembly line  
3 work force, black and white, male and female, of up  
4 to 30,000 during World War II, with equal pay for  
5 equal work.

6           (6) In 1939, the United States Navy had a  
7 total of 18 landing craft in the fleet.

8           (7) From November 18, 1940, when Higgins  
9 Industries was awarded its first contract for Higgins  
10 landing craft until the conclusion of the war, the em-  
11 ployees of Higgins Industries produced 12,300  
12 Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP's) and  
13 nearly 8,000 other landing craft of all types.

14           (8) During World War II, Higgins Industries  
15 employees produced 20,094 boats, including landing  
16 craft and Patrol Torpedo boats, and trained 30,000  
17 Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel on the  
18 safe operation of landing craft at the Higgins' Boat  
19 Operators School.

20           (9) On Thanksgiving Day 1944, General  
21 Dwight D. Eisenhower stated in an address to the  
22 Nation: "Let us thank God for Higgins Industries,  
23 management, and labor which has given us the land-  
24 ing boats with which to conduct our campaign."

1           (10) Higgins landing craft, constructed of wood  
2           and steel, transported fully armed troops, light  
3           tanks, field artillery, and other mechanized equip-  
4           ment essential to amphibious operations.

5           (11) Higgins landing craft made the amphib-  
6           ious assault on D-day and the landings at Leyte,  
7           North Africa, Guadalcanal, Sicily, Iwo Jima,  
8           Tarawa, Guam, and thousands of less well-known  
9           assaults possible.

10          (12) Captain R.R.M. Emmett, a commander at  
11          the North Africa amphibious landing, and later com-  
12          mandant of the Great Lakes Training Station, wrote  
13          during the war: “When the history of this war is fi-  
14          nally written by historians, far enough removed from  
15          its present turmoil and clamor to be cool and impar-  
16          tial, I predict that they will place Mr. (Andrew Jack-  
17          son) Higgins very high on the list of those who de-  
18          serve the commendation and gratitude of all citi-  
19          zens.”.

20          (13) In 1964, President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
21          told historian Steven Ambrose: “He (Higgins) is the  
22          man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not de-  
23          veloped and produced those landing craft, we never  
24          could have gone in over an open beach. We would  
25          have had to change the entire strategy of the war.”.

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

2 (a) **PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.**—

3 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized,  
4 on behalf of Congress, to award a gold medal of ap-  
5 propriate design to—

6 (A) the family of Andrew Jackson Higgins,  
7 honoring Andrew Jackson Higgins (post-  
8 humously) for his contributions to the Nation  
9 and world peace; and

10 (B) the D-day Museum in New Orleans,  
11 Louisiana, for public display, honoring Andrew  
12 Jackson Higgins (posthumously) and the em-  
13 ployees of Higgins Industries for their contribu-  
14 tions to the Nation and world peace.

15 (2) **MODALITIES.**—The modalities of presen-  
16 tation of the medals under this Act shall be deter-  
17 mined by the President after consultation with the  
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Major-  
19 ity Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the  
20 Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives.

22 (b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For purposes of the  
23 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
24 of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
25 retary”) shall strike 2 gold medals with suitable emblems,

1 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
2 retary.

3 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
5 bronze of the gold medals struck under this Act, under  
6 such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, and at  
7 a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including  
8 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-  
9 penses, and the cost of the gold medal.

10 **SEC. 5. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

11 The medals struck under this Act are national medals  
12 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**  
14 **OF SALE.**

15 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is  
16 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
17 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$60,000  
18 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

19 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
20 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be  
21 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
22 Fund.

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