

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3544

To provide for a congressional medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to civilians killed or wounded in terrorist attacks.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself, Ms. LEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. McNULTY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for a congressional medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to civilians killed or wounded in terrorist attacks.

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 “Spirit of the Nation
5 Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Since September 11, 2001, the United
2 States has been engaged in a war different from any
3 other in our Nation’s history.

4 (2) In the eyes of the terrorists, we are all the
5 enemy and the term “innocent civilian” has no
6 meaning for them.

7 (3) The deaths by airplane at the World Trade
8 Center, at the Pentagon, and in rural Pennsylvania
9 and the deaths by anthrax at United States Postal
10 Service facilities and the media represent an esca-
11 lation of direct terrorist attacks on civilians.

12 (4) Given the unprecedented nature of the at-
13 tacks against the United States of America and the
14 need to properly demonstrate the support of the
15 country for the victims of terrorism it is only fitting
16 that we recognize their sacrifice with an appropriate
17 medal.

18 **SEC. 3. SPIRIT OF THE NATION MEDALS.**

19 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President
20 may present, on behalf of the Congress, to each individual
21 referred to in subsection (c), or such individual’s personal
22 representative or next of kin in the case of a deceased indi-
23 vidual, a medal of appropriate design, in recognition of
24 the sacrifice made by such individual.

25 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the presen-
2 tations referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of
3 the Treasury shall strike medals of such content and
4 with such suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions
5 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

6 (2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a final de-
7 termination with respect to the design of the medals
8 under this subsection, the Secretary of the Treasury
9 shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and such
10 other parties as the Secretary of the Treasury may
11 determine to be appropriate.

12 (c) ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE MEDAL.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who is killed
14 or wounded, on or after September 11, 2001, as a
15 direct result of an act of terrorism within the United
16 States shall be eligible for a medal referred to in
17 subsection (a).

18 (2) DETERMINATION.—Eligibility under para-
19 graph (1) shall be determined by the Secretary of
20 the Treasury, in consultation with such other offi-
21 cers of the United States Government, and State
22 and local officials, as the Secretary determines to be
23 appropriate.

24 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF LIST.—

1 (A) INITIAL LIST.—Before the end of the
2 120-day period beginning on the date of the en-
3 actment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treas-
4 ury shall establish a list of the names of indi-
5 viduals who became eligible to receive a medal
6 in accordance with paragraph (1) during the
7 period beginning on September 11, 2001, and
8 ending on such date of enactment.

9 (B) SUBSEQUENT ELIGIBILITY.—If any in-
10 dividual become eligible for a medal in accord-
11 ance with paragraph (1) after the date of the
12 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
13 Treasury shall promptly add such individual’s
14 name to the list prepared pursuant to subpara-
15 graph (A).

16 (4) TERRORISM DEFINED.—The term “ter-
17 rorism” means premeditated, politically motivated
18 violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets
19 by subnational groups or clandestine agents, domes-
20 tic or foreign.

21 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

22 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national
23 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
24 States Code.

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