

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3148

To award a congressional gold medal to Monsignor Ignatius McDermott in recognition of his contribution to the drug treatment community, and his accomplishments as a priest and humanitarian.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Monsignor Ignatius McDermott in recognition of his contribution to the drug treatment community, and his accomplishments as a priest and humanitarian.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Monsignor Ignatius McDermott is a man of
6 unwavering faith, deep compassion, and tireless de-
7 votion to helping those who are among the most des-
8 perate and needy.

1 (2) In his own words, today’s world is over-
2 saturated with a surplus of starters and a famine of
3 finishers: Monsignor McDermott is a finisher.

4 (3) Monsignor McDermott, or “Father Mac” as
5 he is affectionately referred to by everyone from the
6 Governor of Illinois to the last wanderer from the
7 street, grew up on Chicago’s South Side and was or-
8 dained in the priesthood in 1936.

9 (4) From the start of his career, Father Mac
10 found a calling in helping those plagued by depend-
11 ency on alcohol and drugs.

12 (5) Inspired by experiences in his early work
13 with children neglected due to alcohol abuse, and at
14 a charity near a police “drunk tank”, Father Mac
15 sought not only to help those who could not help
16 themselves, but to change the very system that had
17 in many ways given up on them.

18 (6) Working toward a solution, Father Mac
19 founded the Addiction Counseling Education Serv-
20 ices in 1961, which provided counseling to alcoholics
21 and other substance abusers who had no other
22 means to get help.

23 (7) Later, he would expand his work to the Chi-
24 cago schools system, where he developed an alcohol
25 education curriculum and fostered Alternatives to

1 Expulsion, a program to help teachers salvage ad-
2 dicted teenagers who were willing to give up drink-
3 ing and drugs and resume their studies.

4 (8) This program worked so well that it was in-
5 corporated into State of Illinois educational prac-
6 tices.

7 (9) Father Mac's work has had a lasting impact
8 on the treatment community as a whole; in 1963, he
9 founded the Central States Institute of Addiction, a
10 nonprofit charitable organization providing instruc-
11 tion to social workers and counselors regarding ad-
12 diction and dependency.

13 (10) This Institute is only one of numerous pro-
14 grams begun through his inspiration and dedication
15 that continue to function to the benefit of many.

16 (11) Father Mac's lifelong concern for the
17 homeless inebriate and for families split by alco-
18 holism has also met with matching public attitudes.

19 (12) His work helped first bring to light the
20 problems of drinking and driving, provide treatment
21 services to pregnant mothers suffering from addic-
22 tion, and to decriminalize the public inebriate.

23 (13) This latter breakthrough led to his cre-
24 ating the Chicago Clergy Association for the Home-
25 less Person, and the founding of Haymarket Center

1 at the age of 75, a time when most people are ready
2 to retire.

3 (14) Father Mac is now 94, and Haymarket
4 Center is the largest drug abuse treatment center in
5 the City of Chicago providing integrated treatment
6 services for an average of 18,000 clients annually,
7 and serving as a model for other treatment pro-
8 grams throughout the Nation.

9 (15) As the Nation renews its commitment to
10 addiction disorders, Father Mac continues what has
11 become a lifelong pursuit of helping others raise
12 themselves from the depths of their personal strug-
13 gles with addiction.

14 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
16 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
17 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
18 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
19 medal of appropriate design, to Monsignor Ignatius
20 McDermott, in recognition of his contribution to the drug
21 treatment community, and his accomplishments as a
22 priest and humanitarian.

23 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
24 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
25 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-

1 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
2 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
3 retary.

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

5 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
6 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
7 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
8 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
9 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
10 and the cost of the gold medal.

11 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

12 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
13 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
14 51 of title 31, United States Code.

15 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
16 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
17 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

18 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**

19 **SALE.**

20 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
21 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
22 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
23 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
24 to this Act.

1 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
2 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
3 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
4 Enterprise Fund.

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