

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1266

To award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Dorothy Height, in recognition
of her many contributions to the Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2003

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. REID, Mr. KERRY, Ms. COLLINS,
Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.
PRYOR, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. HATCH) introduced
the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee
on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Dorothy Height,
in recognition of her many contributions to the Nation.

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 Congress finds that—

5 (1) Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born on
6 March 24, 1912, to James Edward Height and
7 Fannie (Borroughs) Height in Richmond, Virginia,
8 and was raised in Rankin, Pennsylvania;

1 (2) Dr. Height is recognized as one of the pre-
2 eminent social and civil rights activists of her time,
3 particularly in the struggle for equality, social jus-
4 tice, and human rights for all peoples;

5 (3) beginning as a civil rights advocate in the
6 1930s, she soon gained prominence through her tire-
7 less efforts to promote interracial schooling, to reg-
8 ister and educate voters, and to increase the visi-
9 bility and status of women in our society;

10 (4) Dr. Height has labored to provide hope for
11 inner-city children and their families, and she is re-
12 sponsible for many of the advances made by women
13 and African Americans over the course of the last
14 century;

15 (5) her public career spans over 65 years;

16 (6) Dr. Height was a valued consultant on
17 human and civil rights issues to First Lady Eleanor
18 Roosevelt and she encouraged President Eisenhower
19 to desegregate the Nation's schools and President
20 Johnson to appoint African-American women to sub-
21 Cabinet posts;

22 (7) Dr. Height has been President of the Na-
23 tional Council of Negro Women (NCNW) since
24 1957, a position to which she was appointed upon
25 the retirement of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, one of

1 the most influential African-American women in
2 United States history;

3 (8) the National Council of Negro Women is
4 currently the umbrella organization for 250 local
5 groups and 38 national groups engaged in economic
6 development and women's issues;

7 (9) under Dr. Height's leadership, the National
8 Council of Negro Women implemented a number of
9 new and innovative programs and initiatives, includ-
10 ing—

11 (A) Operation Woman Power, a project to
12 expand business ownership by women and to
13 provide funds for vocational training;

14 (B) leadership training for African-Amer-
15 ican women in the rural South;

16 (C) the Black Family Reunion, a nation-
17 wide annual gathering to encourage, renew, and
18 celebrate the concept of not only the Black fam-
19 ily, but of all families;

20 (D) the Women's Center for Education
21 and Career Advancement, established to em-
22 power minority women in nontraditional ca-
23 reers; and

1 (E) the Bethune Museum and Archives, a
2 museum devoted to the history of African-
3 American women;

4 (10) Dr. Height has been at the forefront of
5 AIDS education, both nationally and internationally,
6 and under her direction, the National Council of
7 Negro Women established offices in West Africa and
8 South Africa and worked to improve the conditions
9 of women in the developing world;

10 (11) Dr. Height has been central in the success
11 of 2 other influential women's organizations, specifi-
12 cally—

13 (A) as president and executive board mem-
14 ber of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr.
15 Height left the sorority more efficient and glob-
16 ally focused with a centralized headquarters;
17 and

18 (B) her work with the Young Women's
19 Christian Association (YWCA) led to its inte-
20 gration and more active participation in the
21 civil rights movement;

22 (12) Dr. Height was the only female member of
23 the "Big Six" civil rights leaders, which included
24 Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, the Reverend
25 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and

1 Roy Wilkins, while strategies were developed for the
2 civil rights movement;

3 (13) Dr. Height is the recipient of many
4 awards and accolades for her efforts on behalf of
5 women's rights, including—

6 (A) the Spingarn Award, the highest honor
7 bestowed by the National Association for the
8 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for
9 civil rights contributions;

10 (B) the Presidential Medal of Freedom,
11 awarded by President Clinton;

12 (C) the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award,
13 from the National Council of Jewish Women;

14 (D) the Ministerial Interfaith Association
15 Award, for her contributions to interfaith, inter-
16 racial, and ecumenical movements for over 30
17 years;

18 (E) the Lovejoy Award, the highest rec-
19 ognition by the Grand Lodge of the Benevolent
20 and Protective Order of Elks of the World, for
21 outstanding contributions to human relations;

22 (F) the Ladies Home Journal Woman of
23 the Year Award, in recognition for her work for
24 human rights;

1 (G) the William L. Dawson Award, pre-
2 sented by the Congressional Black Caucus for
3 decades of public service to people of color and
4 particularly women;

5 (H) the Citizens Medal Award for distin-
6 guished service, presented by President Reagan;
7 and

8 (I) the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Free-
9 dom Medal, awarded by the Franklin and Elea-
10 nor Roosevelt Institute; and

11 (14) Dr. Dorothy Height has established a last-
12 ing legacy of public service that has been an inval-
13 uable contribution to the progress of the Nation.

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

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
16 authorized to present, on behalf of Congress, to Dr. Doro-
17 thy Irene Height, a gold medal of appropriate design in
18 recognition of her many contributions to the Nation.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purpose of the
20 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
21 of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
22 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
23 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
3 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
4 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price
5 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

7 **SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
13 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000
14 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section
15 2.

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
18 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
19 Fund.

○