

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2491

To award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2006

Mr. CORNYN 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 Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

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 “Byron Nelson Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Byron Nelson was a top player in the sport
9 of golf during the World War II era and his accom-

1 plishments as a player, a teacher, and commentator
2 are renowned.

3 (2) Byron Nelson won 54 career victories, in-
4 cluding a record 11 in a row in 1945, during his
5 short 13-year career.

6 (3) Byron Nelson won 5 majors, including 2
7 Masters (1937 and 1942), 2 Professional Golf Asso-
8 ciation (PGA) Championships (1940 and 1945) and
9 the U.S. Open (1939).

10 (4) Sports journalist Bill Nichols recently
11 ranked the greatest seasons on the PGA tour for
12 The Dallas Morning News and picked Roanoke,
13 Texas-resident Byron Nelson's 1945 tour as the
14 greatest season of golf in American history.

15 (5) In 1945, Byron Nelson accumulated 18
16 total victories, 11 of which were consecutive, while
17 averaging 68.33 strokes per round for 30 tour-
18 naments.

19 (6) At the Seattle Open in 1945, Byron Nelson
20 shot a record 62 for 18 holes and the world record
21 259, 29 shots under par for 72 holes.

22 (7) Byron Nelson is one of only 2 golfers to be
23 named "Male Athlete of the Year" twice by the As-
24 sociated Press: in 1944, when he won 7 tournaments

1 and averaged 69.67 strokes for 85 rounds, and
2 again after his 1945 season.

3 (8) The World Golf Hall of Fame honored
4 Byron Nelson in 2004 by featuring an exhibit enti-
5 tled “Byron Nelson: A Champion . . . A Gentleman”.

6 (9) Byron Nelson was selected for the Ryder
7 Cup 4 times—in 1937, 1939, 1947 and 1965, and
8 on that last occasion he led the United States Ryder
9 Cup team as team captain to victory over Great
10 Britain.

11 (10) Byron Nelson was also a pioneer in the
12 golf business, helping to develop the golf shoes and
13 umbrellas used today.

14 (11) In 1966, True Temper created the “Iron
15 Byron” robot to replicate Byron Nelson’s swing in
16 order to test the company’s equipment, but the robot
17 was eventually used for club and ball testing by the
18 United States Golf Association (USGA) and many
19 other manufacturing companies.

20 (12) Byron Nelson mentored many golf hope-
21 fuls, including 1964 Player of the Year Ken Venturi
22 and 6-time PGA Player of the Year Tom Watson.

23 (13) Byron Nelson was one of the first golf an-
24 alysts on network television where his understanding

1 of the game in general, and the golf swing in par-
2 ticular, was demonstrably profound.

3 (14) Byron Nelson received the United States
4 Golf Association's Bob Jones Award for distin-
5 guished sportsmanship in golf in 1974.

6 (15) In 1974, the Golf Writers Association of
7 America presented Byron Nelson with the Richard-
8 son Award for consistently outstanding contributions
9 to golf.

10 (16) Since 1983, the Byron and Louise Nelson
11 Golf Endowment Fund has provided over
12 \$1,500,000 in endowment funds to Abilene Christian
13 University in Abilene, Texas.

14 (17) Byron Nelson received the PGA Distin-
15 guished Service Award in 1993. This award is pre-
16 sented to an individual who has helped perpetuate
17 the ideals and values of the PGA.

18 (18) Byron Nelson has served as an honorary
19 chairperson for the Metroport Meals on Wheels since
20 1992.

21 (19) In 1994, the Golf Course Superintendents
22 Association of America presented Byron Nelson with
23 the Old Tom Morris Award for outstanding con-
24 tributions to the game.

1 (20) Byron Nelson helped to develop the Tour-
2 nament Players Course (TPC) Four Seasons at Los
3 Colinas, Texas, site of the EDS Byron Nelson
4 Championship and the Byron Nelson Golf School,
5 into a world-class facility.

6 (21) The EDS Byron Nelson Championship is
7 the only PGA tour event named in honor of a pro-
8 fessional golfer and traditionally attracts the strong-
9 est players in the sport.

10 (22) Since its inception, the EDS Byron Nelson
11 Championship has raised \$88,000,000 for Salesman-
12 ship Club Youth and Family Centers, a nonprofit
13 agency that provides education and mental health
14 services for more than 2,700 children and their fam-
15 ilies in the greater Dallas area.

16 (23) In 2002, Byron Nelson received the pres-
17 tigious Donald Ross Award from the American Soci-
18 ety of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) for his sig-
19 nificant contribution to the game of golf and the
20 profession of golf course architecture.

21 (24) The United States Golf Association pre-
22 sented Byron Nelson the Ike Grainger Award for
23 volunteer service to the game of golf in 2002.

24 (25) In 2002, the National Golf Foundation
25 presented Byron Nelson with the Graffis Award for

1 outstanding lifelong contributions to the game of
2 golf.

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

4 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President
5 pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
6 of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements
7 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
8 medal of appropriate design to Byron Nelson in recogni-
9 tion of his significant contributions to the game of golf
10 as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

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

17 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

18 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
19 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3
20 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
21 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
22 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
23 and the cost of the gold medal.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
3 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

8 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
9 **SALE.**

10 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
11 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
12 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-
13 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
14 to this Act.

15 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
16 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
17 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
18 Enterprise Fund.

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