

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4867

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to General James N. Mattis, in recognition of his distinguished military career, his steadfast moral character and patriotism, and his unyielding devotion to the protection of this Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2019

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HECK, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. SCHRIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to General James N. Mattis, in recognition of his distinguished military career, his steadfast moral character and patriotism, and his unyielding devotion to the protection of this 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “General James N.
5 Mattis Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) James N. Mattis was born in Pullman,
4 Washington, on September 8, 1950.

5 (2) James N. Mattis graduated from Columbia
6 High School in 1968 and began his military career
7 the following year, enlisting in the United States
8 Marine Corps Reserve.

9 (3) In 1971, James N. Mattis earned a Bach-
10 elor of Arts in history from Central Washington
11 State College. He earned a Master of Arts in inter-
12 national security affairs from National Defense Uni-
13 versity's National War College in 1994.

14 (4) On January 1, 1972, James N. Mattis was
15 commissioned as a second lieutenant through the
16 Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course. As a lieuten-
17 ant, he commanded infantry platoons and, as a cap-
18 tain, commanded both rifle and weapons companies
19 in the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii. Promoted to
20 major, he served as battalion officer at the Naval
21 Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Is-
22 land, and commanded Recruiting Station Portland,
23 Oregon.

24 (5) During the Gulf War, James N. Mattis
25 served as lieutenant colonel and commanded the 1st
26 Battalion, 7th Marines. Promoted to colonel, he

1 commanded the 7th Marine Regiment at Twentynine
2 Palms, California, and served as the Executive Sec-
3 retary to the Department of Defense for Secretaries
4 William Perry and Bill Cohen.

5 (6) Following the September 11, 2001, attacks
6 on America, then-Brigadier General James N.
7 Mattis led Task Force 58 through a series of oper-
8 ations in southern Afghanistan, making him the first
9 United States Marine Corps officer to command a
10 Naval Task Force.

11 (7) James N. Mattis, as major general, com-
12 manded the 1st Marine Division during the 2003 in-
13 vasion of Iraq. He continued in this role until 2004,
14 when he was promoted to lieutenant general and as-
15 sumed command of the Marine Corps Combat Devel-
16 opment Command. The Pentagon announced on
17 May 31, 2006, that he was chosen to take command
18 of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of
19 Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and all Ma-
20 rines assigned to the United States Central Com-
21 mand.

22 (8) James N. Mattis relinquished command of
23 the I Marine Expeditionary Force on November 5,
24 2007. Four days later, on November 9, 2007, he
25 was promoted to four-star general to command

1 United States Joint Forces Command (JFCOM),
2 concurrently serving as NATO's Supreme Allied
3 Commander Transformation (SACT). He trans-
4 ferred his role as SACT on September 9, 2009,
5 while continuing to command JFCOM.

6 (9) After a recommendation from Defense Sec-
7 retary Robert Gates, James N. Mattis was formally
8 nominated as commander of United States Central
9 Command by President Barack Obama, effective
10 July 21, 2010.

11 (10) United States Central Command an-
12 nounced the resignation of James N. Mattis on April
13 27, 2012, and his retirement from the United States
14 Marine Corps was finalized on June 1, 2013.

15 (11) On December 1, 2016, President Donald
16 Trump announced that he would nominate James N.
17 Mattis for United States Secretary of Defense. He
18 was confirmed by the United States Senate on Janu-
19 ary 20, 2017, and served until December 31, 2018.

20 (12) James N. Mattis, prior to and since his re-
21 tirement from the United States Marine Corps, has
22 been awarded many awards and commendations, in-
23 cluding—

1 (A) the Center for National Policy “Ed-
2 mund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service
3 Award” (2009);

4 (B) the Atlantic Council “Distinguished
5 Military Leadership Award” (2010);

6 (C) the World Affairs Council of Greater
7 Hampton Roads “Ryan C. Crocker Global Cit-
8 izen of the Year” Award (2013);

9 (D) the Marine Corps University Founda-
10 tion “Semper Fidelis Award” (2014);

11 (E) the Washington Policy Center “Cham-
12 pion of Freedom Award” (2016);

13 (F) the “Dwight D. Eisenhower Distin-
14 guished Service Award” (2019);

15 (G) the OSS Society “William J. Donovan
16 Award” (2019); and

17 (H) the Washington Policy Center “Co-
18 lumbia Award” (2019).

19 (13) James N. Mattis is a native of Washington
20 State and devoted resident of the Pacific Northwest.
21 He exemplifies a deep love and commitment for his
22 hometown of Richland, Washington, and the greater
23 Tri-Cities through his enthusiastic involvement in
24 the community and long-time volunteer service with
25 the Tri-Cities Food Bank.

1 (14) James N. Mattis is the published author
2 of “Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead”.

3 (15) James N. Mattis demonstrates the Amer-
4 ican principles of hard work, patriotism, and integ-
5 rity. His distinguished military and civilian service
6 and his devotion to defending and upholding the
7 Constitution are an inspiration to all Americans.

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

9 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
10 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
11 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
12 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
13 medal of appropriate design to General James N. Mattis,
14 in recognition of his distinguished military career, his
15 steadfast moral character and patriotism, and his
16 unyielding devotion to the protection of this Nation.

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

23 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
25 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal

1 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
2 it shall be available for display as appropriate and
3 made available for research.

4 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
5 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall
6 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
7 available for—

8 (A) display, particularly at the National
9 Portrait Gallery; and

10 (B) loan, as appropriate, so that the medal
11 may be displayed elsewhere.

12 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

19 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

20 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
21 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
22 51 of title 31, United States Code.

1 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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