

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2762

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field.

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 “Robert Cleckler
5 (‘Bobby’) Bowden Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden (re-
2 ferred to in this Act as “Bobby Bowden”) was born
3 on November 8, 1929, in Birmingham, Alabama.

4 (2) Bobby Bowden served as the head coach of
5 the Florida State University Seminoles from 1976 to
6 2009.

7 (3) At Florida State University, teams coached
8 by Bobby Bowden won 2 national championships (in
9 1993 and 1999) and 12 Atlantic Coast Conference
10 titles.

11 (4) Bobby Bowden posted a 316–97–4 record in
12 his 34 years at Florida State University.

13 (5) Throughout his entire 44 years of coaching
14 college football, Bobby Bowden won a total of 377
15 games, making him one of the winningest coaches in
16 college football history.

17 (6) Bobby Bowden and his wife, Ann Estock,
18 his childhood sweetheart, were married for 72 years,
19 with 6 children and 21 grandchildren and great-
20 grandchildren.

21 (7) In 1999, in an event that was the first of
22 its kind in the history of Division I–A football,
23 Bobby Bowden coached what would be the first of
24 many games against a team coached by his son,
25 which was termed “The Bowden Bowl”.

1 (8) In 2004, the Fellowship of Christian Ath-
2 letes began presenting an annual “Bobby Bowden
3 Award” to a football player for philanthropic work.

4 (9) In 2011, Bobby Bowden was awarded the
5 “Children’s Champion Award for Leadership Devel-
6 opment” by the Children’s Hunger Fund, a chari-
7 table organization, in recognition of his humani-
8 tarian work.

9 (10) In 2021, Bobby Bowden received the inau-
10 gural Medal of Freedom Award from the Governor
11 of Florida.

12 (11) Bobby Bowden leaves a legacy of leader-
13 ship for his contributions on the football field and in
14 his community.

15 (12) While Bobby Bowden is recognized for his
16 many football accomplishments, he will also be re-
17 membered as a family man who counted all as part
18 of his family and encouraged recognizing the human-
19 ity of every individual and loving others as brothers
20 and sisters.

21 (13) Bobby Bowden believed each individual
22 had merit and the United States is better for his
23 legacy.

24 (14) The spirit that Bobby Bowden embodied is
25 the spirit of the United States, of which the people

1 of the United States can be proud and seek to emu-
2 late in both large and small ways.

3 (15) Bobby Bowden never asked for accolades,
4 and for this, and the totality of his life and his love,
5 he should be honored in perpetuity.

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

7 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
8 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
9 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
10 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
11 of a gold medal of appropriate design to commemorate the
12 life of Bobby Bowden, in recognition of his achievements
13 both on and off the football field.

14 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of the
16 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of
17 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
18 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
19 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by
20 the Secretary.

21 (2) IMAGE.—The emblems, devices, and inscrip-
22 tions determined by the Secretary shall include an
23 inscription of the name of Robert Cleckler
24 (“Bobby”) Bowden.

1 (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—Following the award
2 of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
3 shall be given to the next of kin of Bobby Bowden.

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

5 (a) STRIKING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may
6 strike duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under
7 section 3.

8 (b) SELLING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may
9 sell such duplicates under subsection (a) at a price suffi-
10 cient to cover the costs of such duplicates, including labor,
11 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

12 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

13 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
14 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
15 31, United States Code.

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

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
20 **SALE.**

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

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

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