

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3271

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the fight against communism.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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 the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the fight against communism.

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 “Hmong Congressional
5 Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) As the Vietnam war spread south and west
9 into Laos, the Central Intelligence Agency recruited

1 and trained Hmong tribesmen to fight back against
2 the communist North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao.

3 (2) Over 30,000 Hmong men fought the ground
4 war, flew combat missions, gathered intelligence on
5 North Vietnamese troop movements, interrupted the
6 Ho-Chi-Min Supply Trail, and rescued American pi-
7 lots downed behind enemy lines.

8 (3) The Hmong people suffered heavy casual-
9 ties, and their soldiers died at a rate ten times as
10 high as that of American soldiers in Vietnam.

11 (4) Following the Vietnam war, many Hmong
12 were displaced from their villages as they were either
13 bombed or burned down by the North Vietnamese
14 and over 150,000 Hmong fled Laos when the nation
15 fell to communist forces on May 14, 1975.

16 (5) Due to their ties to the American military,
17 many Hmong who fled Laos came to the United
18 States as refugees to start a new life.

19 (6) Currently, there are over 327,000 Hmong
20 living in the United States.

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

22 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
24 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
25 award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appro-

1 piate design to the Hmong people, in recognition of their
2 highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the
3 fight against communism.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
5 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
6 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
7 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
8 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

9 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
11 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
12 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
13 it shall be available for display as appropriate and
14 made available for research.

15 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
16 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
17 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
18 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other
19 appropriate locations associated with the service of
20 the Hmong people in the Vietnam war, and that
21 preference should be given to locations affiliated
22 with the Smithsonian Institution.

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

24 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price

1 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
2 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
5 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
6 51 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
8 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
9 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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