

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration of the service members who perished as a result of the attack in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration of the service members who perished as a result of the attack in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes.

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 the following:

1 (1) At 9:44 a.m., on August 26, 2021, the Pen-
2 tagon confirmed that one explosion occurred at the
3 Hamid Karzai International Airport.

4 (2) The explosion was confirmed to be a suicide
5 bombing by ISIS–K terrorist group.

6 (3) Estimates as high as 200 deaths were re-
7 ported, including 13 service members of the United
8 States, as well as hundreds more wounded.

9 (4) The attack on Thursday, August 26, 2021
10 at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul,
11 Afghanistan, killed 13 United States service mem-
12 bers, making it the deadliest single day of the war
13 for the United States in more than a decade.

14 (5) The American service members went above
15 and beyond the call of duty to protect citizens of the
16 United States and our allies to ensure they are
17 brought to safety in an extremely dangerous situa-
18 tion as the Taliban regained control over Afghani-
19 stan.

20 (6) The American service members exemplified
21 extreme bravery and valor against armed enemy
22 combatants.

23 (7) The American service members dedicated
24 their lives and their heroism deserves great honor.

1 (8) Maxton Soviak, Kareem Nikoui, David
2 Espinoza, Rylee McCollum, Jared Schmitz, Hunter
3 Lopez, Taylor Hoover, Daegan William-Tyler Page,
4 Nicole Gee, Humberto Sanchez, Dylan Merola,
5 Johanny Rosario Pichardo, and Ryan Knauss have
6 been identified as the 13 service members who died
7 from the blast while stationed at Hamid Karzai
8 International Airport.

9 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

10 (a) PRESENTATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
11 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
12 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
13 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
14 of a single gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-
15 ration of the 13 service members who perished as a result
16 of the attack in Afghanistan, on August 26, 2021.

17 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For 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 display outside of the District of Co-
8 lumbia at times, particularly at other locations asso-
9 ciated with the 13 service members who perished in
10 Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

11 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

12 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
13 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at
14 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
15 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

16 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

17 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medal struck pursuant
18 to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter
19 51 of title 31, United States Code.

20 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
21 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
22 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
2 **SALE.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
7 to this Act.

8 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—The amounts received
9 from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under
10 section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint
11 Public Enterprise Fund.