

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. R.** _____

To award posthumously thirteen Congressional Gold Medals, in commemoration to the service members who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MCCLAIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To award posthumously thirteen Congressional Gold Medals, in commemoration to the service members who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

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 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) At 9:44 A.M., on August 26, 2021, the
2 Pentagon confirmed that two explosions occurred at
3 the Hamid Karzai International Airport.

4 (2) The explosions were confirmed to be a sui-
5 cide bombing by ISIS–K terrorist group.

6 (3) At least 103 casualties were reported, in-
7 cluding 13 service members of the United States and
8 several Taliban fighters, as well as hundreds more
9 wounded.

10 (4) The attacks on Thursday, August 26, at the
11 Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Af-
12 ghanistan, killed 13 United States troops, making it
13 the deadliest single day of the war for the United
14 States in more than a decade.

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

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

24 (7) The American service members dedicated
25 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 MEDALS.**

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 the Con-
14 gress, of thirteen gold medals of appropriate design in
15 commemoration to the service members who perished in
16 Afghanistan, on August 26, 2021.

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

23 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
25 gold medals 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 elsewhere, particularly at other
8 appropriate locations associated with the thirteen
9 service members perished in Afghanistan, on August
10 26, 2021.

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

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

17 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

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