

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in the United States.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in the United States.

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 “Aretha Franklin Con-  
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1           (1) Aretha Franklin was born on March 25,  
2           1942, in Memphis, Tennessee and died peacefully at  
3           her home in Detroit, Michigan surrounded by family  
4           and loved ones on August 16, 2018;

5           (2) Aretha Franklin’s musical talents have in-  
6           fluenced generations of musicians and political lead-  
7           ers, creating a legacy that spans an incredible 6 dec-  
8           ades;

9           (3) Aretha Franklin, dubbed the “Queen of  
10          Soul,” was the first woman ever inducted into the  
11          Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, was a 2005 recipient  
12          of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and a 1999  
13          recipient of the National Medal of Arts and Human-  
14          ities Award, among other accolades;

15          (4) Aretha Franklin’s music served as a 1960s  
16          call to action that inspired thousands to join civil  
17          rights movements and still resonates across these  
18          movements today;

19          (5) Aretha Franklin’s contributions go beyond  
20          music and arts;

21          (6) Aretha Franklin was also a philanthropist  
22          who supported causes that advanced civil rights,  
23          human health, and gender equality;

1           (7) Aretha Franklin’s talents instilled hope, up-  
2           lifted generations, and changed the lives of millions  
3           of people across the globe;

4           (8) the City of Detroit shaped Aretha’s life and  
5           music, as her father and church introduced her to  
6           local Motown artists; and

7           (9) in return, Aretha made countless contribu-  
8           tions to the City of Detroit and few people have  
9           played a greater role in shaping the culturally and  
10          socially relevant discography in the United States  
11          than Aretha Franklin.

12 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

13          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
14 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
15 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
16 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,  
17 of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration  
18 of Aretha Franklin, in recognition of her outstanding ar-  
19 tistic and historical significance to the culture of the  
20 United States.

21          (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
22 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
23 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the  
24 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-

1 blem, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
2 Secretary.

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

4 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
5 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
6 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
7 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
9 and the cost of the gold medal.

10 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medal struck pursuant  
12 to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter  
13 51 of title 31, United States Code.

14 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
15 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
16 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
18 **SALE.**

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

24 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
25 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

1 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
2 Enterprise Fund.