

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9104

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the group of heroic participants in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising who led an armed resistance against Nazi occupiers and fought to preserve and protect the Jewish culture.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. KAPTUR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the group of heroic participants in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising who led an armed resistance against Nazi occupiers and fought to preserve and protect the Jewish culture.

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 “Heroes of the Warsaw  
5 Ghetto Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Jewish people have long formed an in-  
2           tegral part of the culture and history of Europe and  
3           of Poland.

4           (2) Europeans Jews contribute to the rich di-  
5           versity of society and culture across Europe.

6           (3) For centuries, prior to World War II, Po-  
7           land represented a center of Jewish life in Europe  
8           and was home to millions of Jews.

9           (4) Prior to World War II, 350,000 Jews lived  
10          in Warsaw, representing about 30 percent of the  
11          city's population.

12          (5) Following the Nazi takeover of Poland, the  
13          Germans established the Warsaw ghetto in October  
14          1940, and unlawfully confined Jewish civilians to the  
15          ghetto in November 1940, with the population of the  
16          ghetto reaching a height of 400,000 Jews.

17          (6) Life in the Warsaw ghetto was marked by  
18          widespread starvation, disease, physical violence, and  
19          deplorable conditions unsuitable for life, leading to  
20          the deaths of 83,000 Jews between 1940 and mid-  
21          1942.

22          (7) In less than two months in 1942, German  
23          units deported about 265,000 Jews from Warsaw to  
24          the Treblinka death camp and killed an additional  
25          35,000 Jews inside the ghetto.

1           (8) In early 1943, German and SS units in-  
2           tended to deport the remaining Jewish population of  
3           the ghetto to forced labor camps, but many Jews re-  
4           sisted deportation.

5           (9) The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began on  
6           April 19, 1943, when SS and police forces appeared  
7           outside the walls of the Warsaw ghetto with the in-  
8           tent of liquidating the ghetto and deporting its re-  
9           maining inhabitants.

10          (10) Aided in part by arms from the Polish un-  
11          derground and relying on clandestinely organized  
12          Jewish self-defense groups, the ghetto heroically re-  
13          sisted German forces, mounting an organized armed  
14          resistance against SS and police units and fighting  
15          against impossible odds.

16          (11) Jews in the ghetto continued to fend off  
17          their German occupiers for almost one month, fight-  
18          ing to the last.

19          (12) After weeks of resistance, the Germans  
20          systematically destroyed the ghetto, burning build-  
21          ings and razing city blocks in an attempt to erase  
22          the memory and existence of the Jewish people.

23          (13) By May 16, 1943, German forces had sup-  
24          pressed the uprising and deported the ghetto's sur-

1       viving inhabitants to concentration camps and killing  
2       centers.

3           (14) The heroes of the Warsaw ghetto who  
4       bravely defended themselves in the face of unimagi-  
5       nable crimes set an example for other occupied cities  
6       and for other Jewish communities.

7           (15) In total, over 3,000,000 Polish Jews were  
8       murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust, with  
9       only about 380,000 Polish Jews still alive in Poland,  
10      the Soviet Union, or in concentration camps by the  
11      end of the war.

12          (16) Genocide involves the erasure and elimi-  
13      nation of the memory and culture of a people, and  
14      therefore the United States must work to preserve  
15      the historical record of Jewish people around the  
16      world, many of whom now live in the United States.

17          (17) Current and future generations benefit  
18      from the preservation and memorialization of their  
19      history and culture.

20          (18) Millions of Jewish people whose ancestors  
21      came from Poland now live in the United States,  
22      Israel, and around the world.

23          (19) Preservation of the history and culture of  
24      Jewish people in Poland is essential to learning the

1 lessons of history and ensuring the prosperity of the  
2 Jewish people for future generations.

3 (20) Museums are an important contributor to  
4 the historical preservation of human memory, pro-  
5 viding cultural, education and civic centers where  
6 people can learn about the life and record of individ-  
7 uals or groups of people from the past.

8 (21) Museums dedicated to the historical mem-  
9 ory of Jewish people or the struggle for survival of  
10 the Jewish people during the Holocaust play a crit-  
11 ical role in preserving the memory of Jewish people.

12 (22) The construction of further museums, in-  
13 cluding the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, would be a  
14 welcoming place for all visitors who want to better  
15 understand the fate of Jews incarcerated in the  
16 Warsaw ghetto.

17 (23) The POLIN Museum of the History of the  
18 Polish Jews is a central location for Jewish people  
19 around the world to learn about the life, history, and  
20 culture of their ancestors.

21 (24) The POLIN Museum is an important edu-  
22 cational hub for all people to learn about the rich  
23 history of Jewish people who were targeted and he-  
24 roically fought back against the Nazis in their at-  
25 tempt to erase the memory of Jewish life in Europe.

1           (25) The POLIN Museum in Warsaw should be  
2           celebrated for the important role it plays in the pres-  
3           ervation of the memory of Jewish life as it docu-  
4           ments the long history of Jewish life in Poland and  
5           Europe both before and after the war, and sits on  
6           the site of the former Warsaw ghetto where so many  
7           heroic Jews fought against the erasure of the mem-  
8           ory of the Jewish people.

9   **SEC. 3. 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 the Con-  
14          gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in collective  
15          commemoration of the group of heroic participants in the  
16          Warsaw Ghetto Uprising who led an armed resistance  
17          against Nazi occupiers and fought to preserve and protect  
18          the Jewish culture.

19          (b) LOCATION OF PRESENTATION.—The presentation  
20          described under subsection (a) shall take place at the  
21          POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

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

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

3 (d) UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MU-  
4 SEUM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
6 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal  
7 shall be given to the United States Holocaust Memo-  
8 rial Museum, where it shall be available in accord-  
9 ance with the Museum’s policies regarding materials  
10 in the Museum’s care.

11 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
12 Congress that the United States Holocaust Memo-  
13 rial Museum should make the gold medal received  
14 under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere,  
15 in accordance with the Museum’s policies regarding  
16 materials in the Museum’s care, at other appropriate  
17 locations, including those associated with commemo-  
18 ration of the Holocaust and other relevant entities  
19 such as the POLIN Museum of the History of the  
20 Polish Jews, that may make such a request.

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

22 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
23 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 at  
24 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
25 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medal struck pursuant  
3 to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter  
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

8 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**  
9 **SALE.**

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

15 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—The amounts received  
16 from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under  
17 section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint  
18 Public Enterprise Fund.

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