

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 973

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., in recognition of his unique and substantial contributions across America in lifting marginalized people, communities, and institutions that continue to struggle for economic mobility, access to greater opportunities, equity, and equality for all people.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., in recognition of his unique and substantial contributions across America in lifting marginalized people, communities, and institutions that continue to struggle for economic mobility, access to greater opportunities, equity, and equality for all people.

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 “Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., was born April 12,
4 1950, in Toccoa, Georgia, to Lizzie Dortch and
5 Thomas W. Dortch, Sr., and went on to become an
6 influential leader and mentor as well as a successful
7 businessperson and crusader for equal justice.

8 (2) After graduating from Whitman Street
9 High School in 1968, Dortch attended Fort Valley
10 State University in Fort Valley, Georgia, and grad-
11 uated with a bachelor of arts in sociology in 1972.
12 That year, he began his formal career by seeking to
13 aid disenfranchised people through proposing
14 projects for the State of Georgia. In 1974, he be-
15 came the associate director of the Georgia Demo-
16 cratic Party. In 1978, Dortch began working as an
17 administrative aide for Senator Sam Nunn of Geor-
18 gia and eventually became State Director, the first
19 African American to serve in this position. Dortch
20 worked tirelessly to represent the interests of small
21 businesses, minorities, and other marginalized indi-
22 viduals and institutions.

23 (3) In 1986, Dortch joined the 100 Black Men
24 of America, an international mentoring program in-
25 tended to improve the quality of life and opportuni-
26 ties for education and employment for African

1 Americans. He served as chairman of 100 Black
2 Men of Atlanta and became the chairman of 100
3 Black Men of America's national board of directors.
4 That same year, he earned his master of arts in
5 criminal justice administration from Clark Atlanta
6 University and married Carole Dortch.

7 (4) In 1994, after more than 16 years of gov-
8 ernment service, Dortch left his position to pursue
9 his own business interests. He became CEO of the
10 consulting firm TWD, Inc., and Atlanta Transpor-
11 tation Systems, Inc., a Fulton County paratransit
12 company. He still holds both positions.

13 (5) Dortch has won numerous awards high-
14 lighting his achievements, including a Presidential
15 Citation for volunteerism from President Barack
16 Obama, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Distinguished
17 Service Award, and the Concerned Black Clergy's
18 Salute to Black Fathers Leadership Award. Dortch
19 has four children. His unique and substantial con-
20 tributions across America in lifting marginalized
21 people, communities, and institutions that continue
22 to struggle for economic mobility, access to greater
23 opportunities, equity, and equality for all people.

24 (6) Dortch is an institution builder that in-
25 cluded founding the National Black College Alumni

1 Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., cofounding the
2 Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs
3 (GAME) to fill a void as an advocacy organization
4 for minority business development, and cofounding
5 the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance as a capacity
6 building and business development organization for
7 the construction and transportation industries.

8 (7) Dortch is the recipient of numerous awards
9 and honors that celebrate his efforts, a partial list
10 includes: listed in the 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004
11 May editions of Ebony magazine as one of the 100
12 Most Influential African Americans; listed in Spring
13 2001 through 2014 Publications of Atlanta Business
14 Chronicle as one of the 100 Most Influential Atlan-
15 tans; 2008 Community Service Professional of the
16 Year Award; 2008 FraserNet Community Service
17 Award; and 2008 Global Leadership Empowerment
18 Award.

19 (8) Dortch's volunteer board service includes
20 serving on the Board of Trustees of Leadership At-
21 lanta, Vice Chairman of the Board, Grady Memorial
22 Hospital Corporation, Chairman of the Board,
23 Friendship Force International, Chairman of the
24 Board, Fulton/DeKalb County Hospital Authority;
25 2010 was inducted into Atlanta Convention and

1 Visitors Bureau’s Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame;
2 three-term Chairman of the Board, The Atlanta
3 Business League: Chair, Fort Valley State Univer-
4 sity Foundation Board, Member of Operation Hope
5 Board of Trustees, Florida Agricultural and Me-
6 chanical University Board of Trustees, Talladega
7 College Board of Trustees, Clark Atlanta University
8 Board of Trustees, and Chairman of the Board, Na-
9 tional Coalition on Black Civic Participation.

10 (9) In 2019, Dortch was inducted into the
11 International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. The Civil
12 Rights Walk of Fame was created to recognize the
13 courageous soldiers of justice who sacrificed and
14 struggled to make equality a reality for all. Dortch’s
15 footstep impression joined those of civil and human
16 rights icons, such as Rosa Parks, Archbishop Emer-
17 itus Desmond Tutu, Ambassador Andrew Young,
18 Congressman John Lewis, and others.

19 (10) Dortch’s philanthropic and investment ad-
20 vice and counsel, particularly to corporate America,
21 have benefitted countless minority organizations, in-
22 stitutions, and communities across America to real-
23 ize and grow their programming and impact.

24 (11) Dortch received honorary doctors degrees
25 from Fayetteville State University, Jarvis Christian

1 College, Fort Valley State University, University of
2 Maryland Eastern Shore, and Livingstone College.

3 (12) Dortch was recently honored by Clark At-
4 lanta University and the National Coalition on Black
5 Civic Participation in 2021 with the creation of the
6 NCBCP Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., Institute for Lead-
7 ership, Civic Engagement, Economic Empowerment,
8 and Social Justice.

9 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

10 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION.—The Speaker
11 of the House of Representatives and the President pro
12 tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrange-
13 ments for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of
14 a gold medal of appropriate design to Thomas W. Dortch,
15 Jr., in recognition of his unique and substantial contribu-
16 tions across America in lifting marginalized people, com-
17 munities, and institutions that continue to struggle for
18 economic mobility, access to greater opportunities, equity,
19 and equality for all people.

20 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
21 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
22 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
23 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
24 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
25 retary.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

6 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

7 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
8 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
9 51 of title 31, United States Code.

10 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
11 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
12 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
13 items.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
15 **SALE.**

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

21 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
22 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
23 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
24 Enterprise Fund.

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