

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 5283

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert M. Gates, in recognition of his service to the United States as an intelligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator and leader for young people of the United States.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert M. Gates, in recognition of his service to the United States as an intelligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator and leader for young people of 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 “Robert M. Gates Con-  
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Robert “Bob” M. Gates was born on Sep-  
4 tember 25, 1943, in Wichita, Kansas. He stated in  
5 2007, “Kansas imparts to its children three charac-  
6 teristics that have been a source of strength to me  
7 over the years: a rejection of cynicism, and enduring  
8 optimism and idealism.”.

9 (2) Bob Gates joined the Boy Scouts of Amer-  
10 ica and attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

11 (3) Graduating from Wichita East High School,  
12 Bob Gates matriculated at the College of William &  
13 Mary before completing graduate studies at Indiana  
14 University and a doctorate at Georgetown Univer-  
15 sity.

16 (4) Bob Gates was recruited to the Central In-  
17 telligence Agency in 1966, beginning a life of contin-  
18 uous public service for the next 27 years. In this  
19 span, Bob Gates worked for 6 Presidents of both  
20 parties and 8 Directors of Central Intelligence.

21 (5) In January 1967, Bob Gates took leave  
22 from the Central Intelligence Agency and was com-  
23 missioned as a second lieutenant in the United  
24 States Air Force, serving for 1 year as an intel-  
25 ligence officer at Whiteman Air Force Base in Mis-  
26 souri.

1           (6) Returning to the Central Intelligence Agen-  
2           cy in January 1968, Bob Gates began his career as  
3           an analyst specializing in the Soviet Union in Au-  
4           gust of that year. Thus began his rise to become the  
5           Deputy Director for Intelligence, Deputy Director of  
6           Central Intelligence, including 6 months as Acting  
7           Director, and finally the first analyst to serve as Di-  
8           rector of Central Intelligence.

9           (7) Bob Gates served on the National Security  
10          Council under 4 presidents beginning with President  
11          Richard Nixon. He likewise served on the Council  
12          under Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and  
13          George H.W. Bush.

14          (8) As Deputy National Security Advisor to Na-  
15          tional Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft under Presi-  
16          dent George H.W. Bush, Bob Gates was integral to  
17          restoring a national security process damaged in the  
18          wake of the Iran-Contra scandal.

19          (9) Bob Gates was appointed by Scowcroft as  
20          “Assistant to the President” and chaired the Depu-  
21          ties Committee of the National Security Council,  
22          which became, in the words of political scientist Bar-  
23          tholomew Sparrow, “the Bush administration’s  
24          workhorse for making national security policy”.

1           (10) In this capacity, Bob Gates played an es-  
2           sential role in crafting policies that peacefully ended  
3           the Cold War with the Soviet Union, supported  
4           democratic transitions in Eastern Europe, unified  
5           Germany under the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-  
6           tion, ejected Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi forces from oc-  
7           cupying Kuwait, and engaged a rising China.

8           (11) Bob Gates served as the 22nd Secretary of  
9           Defense of the United States, leading the military of  
10          the United States for 4 ½ years and was the first  
11          to serve in this position under Presidents of both po-  
12          litical parties.

13          (12) Bob Gates led transitions to strategies in  
14          Iraq and Afghanistan to combat insurgencies in each  
15          country.

16          (13) Prioritizing the well-being of the service  
17          members of the United States, Bob Gates fast-  
18          tracked the acquisition of armored vehicles to ensure  
19          more men and women in uniform returned home  
20          alive, and, in the words of then-Chairman of the  
21          Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen, “[H]e  
22          demanded when they did come home, they were  
23          given all the respect and the dignity and the care  
24          and the support they needed to get on with their  
25          lives.”.

1           (14) Bob Gates, again in the words of Admiral  
2 Mullen, spurred the Pentagon “to find new effi-  
3 ciencies and new business practices” making the De-  
4 partment of Defense “a better steward of taxpayer  
5 dollars”.

6           (15) Outside of government service, Bob Gates  
7 has been committed to the youth and young adults  
8 in the United States.

9           (16) Bob Gates served as president of the Na-  
10 tional Eagle Scout Association and, from 2014 to  
11 2016, as President of the Boys Scouts of America.  
12 Under his leadership, the Boy Scouts of America  
13 strengthened its volunteer leadership, prioritized di-  
14 versity and outreach to disadvantaged youth, and ar-  
15 rested membership decline.

16           (17) Bob Gates filled roles in institutions of  
17 higher learning in the United States, most notably  
18 as President of Texas A&M University until his ap-  
19 pointment as Secretary Defense, and as Chancellor  
20 of the College of William & Mary.

21           (18) Bob Gates is the author of 4 books, in-  
22 cluding 2 memoirs of his time in public service, a  
23 study on leadership, and a defense for enhancing the  
24 nonmilitary tools of the United States to conduct  
25 foreign policy.

1           (19) Multiple Presidents of the United States  
2           have specially honored Bob Gates for his distin-  
3           guished career of public service.

4           (20) President George H.W. Bush awarded Bob  
5           Gates the second highest civilian award in the  
6           United States, the Presidential Citizens Medal, in  
7           1992, declaring, “Robert Gates has dedicated him-  
8           self to the national security and national interest. As  
9           Deputy National Security Advisor, he chaired a  
10          small group of senior officials around the clock to  
11          resolve the Gulf crisis, and ably managed the inter-  
12          agency coordination central to the vindication of fun-  
13          damental principles of peace. His great skill was in-  
14          dispensable to our historic accomplishments in the  
15          Gulf.”.

16          (21) President Barack Obama presented Bob  
17          Gates with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the  
18          highest civilian award in the United States, in 2011.  
19          The citation declares Bob Gates “has selflessly dedi-  
20          cated his life to ensuring the security of the Amer-  
21          ican people. He has served eight Presidents of both  
22          parties with unwavering patriotism. . . . The United  
23          States honors Robert M. Gates for his extraordinary  
24          leadership and for a lifetime of service and devotion  
25          to our nation.”.

1           (22) Bob Gates has received numerous other  
2           honors from the Federal Government, including the  
3           National Security Medal, the National Intelligence  
4           Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Intel-  
5           ligence Medal, the United States Army Decoration  
6           for Exceptional Civilian Service, the United States  
7           Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, and the  
8           United States Air Force Decoration for Exceptional  
9           Civilian Service.

10           (23) Among other honors, 12 different univer-  
11           sities have bestowed Bob Gates with an honorary  
12           doctorate and the Boy Scouts of America granted  
13           him the Distinguished Service Award, the Silver  
14           Buffalo Award, and the Vigil Honor. In 2011, after  
15           his departure from the Pentagon and public service,  
16           Foreign Policy magazine named Bob Gates “Amer-  
17           ica’s last bipartisan figure”.

18           (24) In a tribute to Bob Gates, President  
19           Barack Obama said, “I believe the life of Bob Gates  
20           is a lesson, especially to young Americans, a lesson  
21           that public service is an honorable calling; that we  
22           can pass our country, better and stronger, to those  
23           who follow. . . . In his willingness to become the first  
24           Secretary of Defense to serve under Presidents of  
25           both parties, the integrity of Bob Gates is also a re-

1       minder, especially to folks here in Washington, that  
2       civility and respectful discourse, and citizenship over  
3       partisanship are not quaint relics of a bygone era;  
4       they are the timeless virtues that we need now more  
5       than ever. For whatever differences of party or ide-  
6       ology we may have, we can only keep America strong  
7       if we remember what keeps America great—our abil-  
8       ity to come together to work together, as Americans,  
9       for a common purpose.”.

10               (25) By virtue of his career in public and pri-  
11       vate life, Bob Gates has exemplified commitment to  
12       the security and well-being of the United States, and  
13       has earned the respect of people of the United  
14       States throughout the country.

15       **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16       (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
17       the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
18       pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
19       for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold  
20       medal of appropriate design to Robert M. Gates, in rec-  
21       ognition for his service to the United States as an intel-  
22       ligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator  
23       and leader for young people of the United States.

24       (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
25       presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of



1 the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”)  
2 shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices,  
3 and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

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

5 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
6 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price  
7 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,  
8 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

9 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

10 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this  
11 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title  
12 31, United States Code.

13 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
14 5134 and section 5136 of title 31, United States Code,  
15 all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to  
16 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 under  
23 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.

