

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 141

To award a congressional gold medal to John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1993

Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. OWENS of New York, Mr. RAVENEL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. DIXON, Mr. DE LUGO, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. COLLINS of Michigan, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie.

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 as follows:

5 (1) John Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie is one of the
6 most recognized and beloved artists in the world
7 today, admired not only for his unique musicianship,
8 but for his ability to reach people on a distinctly per-
9 sonal level.

1 (2) As a virtuoso musician, pioneer, innovator,
2 composer, arranger, bandleader, raconteur, consum-
3 mate entertainer, and cultural ambassador
4 extraordinaire, Mr. Gillespie has distinguished him-
5 self as one of the truly immortal figures in the his-
6 tory of Jazz, “a national American Treasure”.

7 (3) Mr. Gillespie has received the Kennedy Cen-
8 ter Honors, the most prestigious public recognition
9 of an artist’s lifetime contributions in the perform-
10 ing arts in the United States, was awarded the
11 Smithsonian Medal from the Smithsonian Institu-
12 tion, and was presented with American Society of
13 Composers, Authors and Publishers’ “Duke” award
14 for his lifetime achievements as a musician, com-
15 poser, and bandleader.

16 (4) Mr. Gillespie has received many additional
17 honors; the National Medal of Arts, presented by
18 President Bush; the Commandant D’Ordre des Arts
19 et Lettres, the highest honor in the arts in France,
20 presented by Minister of Culture Jack Lang;
21 crowned a traditional African chief, with the title
22 “Bashere of Iperu”, in Nigeria; and a Grammy life-
23 time Achievement Award from the National Acad-
24 emy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

1 (5) Mr. Gillespie has performed before numer-
2 ous royalty and countless world leaders, including 4
3 American Presidents.

4 (6) At the personal invitation of President Sam
5 Nujoma, Mr. Gillespie performed at the State Inde-
6 pendence Banquet of Namibia, before the leaders of
7 virtually every country in the world; the audience in-
8 cluded kings, presidents, prime ministers, the Sec-
9 retary-General of the United Nations, Nelson
10 Mandela, and a host of other dignitaries.

11 (7) Mr. Gillespie is acclaimed as a visionary
12 risk-taker whose daring integration of ethnic influ-
13 ences added a vibrant and indelible dimension to
14 jazz, and to music in all of its popular forms.

15 (8) Mr. Gillespie and the late Charlie “Bird”
16 Parker pioneered Bebop, a new and fresh harmonic
17 and rhythmic vocabulary which created a musical rev-
18 olution that completely transformed jazz and dra-
19 matically impacted on 20th Century musical culture.

20 (9) Mr. Gillespie is universally credited as the
21 catalyst who incorporated Afro-Cuban, Brazilian,
22 and Caribbean music and rhythms into the jazz
23 idiom.

24 (10) Mr. Gillespie’s third great big band, the
25 United Nation Orchestra, which exemplifies the es-

1 sence of Mr. Gillespie’s universal musical philosophy,
2 has enthralled audiences in 20 countries on the con-
3 tinents of North America, South America, Europe,
4 and Australia, since the band’s inception in 1988.

5 (11) In 1956, Mr. Gillespie was the first jazz
6 artist appointed by the Department of State as Cul-
7 tural Ambassador to tour on behalf of the United
8 States of America, and his resoundingly successful
9 tours through the Near East, Asia, Eastern Europe,
10 and Latin America were early landmarks in what
11 has been a virtual lifetime of cultural statesmanship
12 by the inimitable jazz master on behalf of his coun-
13 try.

14 (12) In January 1989, Mr. Gillespie once again
15 was asked to represent the United States and em-
16 barked on a ground-breaking, month-long tour in
17 Africa, sponsored by the United States Information
18 Agency Arts America Program.

19 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

20 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
21 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to John
22 Birks “Dizzy” Gillespie a gold medal of appropriate de-
23 sign, in recognition of over half a century of musical ge-
24 nius.

1 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
2 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
3 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
4 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the
5 Secretary.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are
7 authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$25,000 to
8 carry out this section.

9 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 (a) STRIKING AND SALE.—The Secretary of the
11 Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the
12 gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 under such regu-
13 lations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient
14 to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies,
15 use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of
16 the gold medal.

17 (b) REIMBURSEMENT OF APPROPRIATION.—The ap-
18 propriation used to carry out section 2 shall be reimbursed
19 out of the proceeds of sales under subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

21 The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national
22 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United
23 States Code.

○