

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 911

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Walsh in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation through his work in the fields of law enforcement and victims' rights.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2001

Mr. BARCIA (for himself, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. FROST, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. COMBEST, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. REYES, and Mr. SHAW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Walsh in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation through his work in the fields of law enforcement and victims' rights.

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 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) John Walsh, host of the television program  
2           “America’s Most Wanted”, has dedicated his life to  
3           the pursuit and apprehension of felons and fugitives  
4           who have committed murder, rape, robbery, kid-  
5           naping, pedophilia, and other atrocious crimes  
6           against the citizens of the United States.

7           (2) In doing so, John Walsh has sacrificed his  
8           own personal safety and freedom for the good of all  
9           citizens of the United States.

10          (3) On July 27, 1981, Adam Walsh, the 6-year-  
11          old son of John Walsh, was abducted and brutally  
12          murdered.

13          (4) John Walsh and his family have never ob-  
14          tained closure for this heinous crime, because no  
15          person was ever charged with the crime and the  
16          prime suspect ultimately died in prison.

17          (5) After the death of his son, John Walsh be-  
18          came a tireless advocate for victims’ rights.

19          (6) John Walsh has testified more than 35  
20          times before the Congress in support of legislation,  
21          and his efforts led to the passage in 1982 of the  
22          Missing Children Act and in 1984 of the Missing  
23          Children’s Assistance Act, which established the Na-  
24          tional Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

1           (7) John Walsh has lobbied for a constitutional  
2 amendment that would secure victims' rights.

3           (8) John Walsh, not ceasing his dedication to  
4 the safety and welfare of children with the enact-  
5 ment of new protective statutes, established a public  
6 information television program, "America's Most  
7 Wanted", to expose the criminal activity of various  
8 fugitives throughout the United States and abroad.

9           (9) Four days after the debut of the program,  
10 on February 11, 1988, the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
11 tigation announced the capture in New York City of  
12 one of its 10 Most Wanted fugitives, David James  
13 Roberts, as a direct result of tips from viewers of  
14 the program.

15           (10) On May 29, 1988, the Director of the  
16 Federal Bureau of Investigation, William Sessions,  
17 appeared on "America's Most Wanted" to announce  
18 the addition of 3 new fugitives to the Federal Bu-  
19 reau of Investigation's 10 Most Wanted list, one of  
20 whom was captured within 24 hours after the an-  
21 nouncement.

22           (11) On July 17, 1988, Robert Wayne Fisher,  
23 a fugitive wanted for the murder of his wife, was  
24 captured just 33 minutes after John Walsh profiled  
25 him on "America's Most Wanted".

1           (12) On May 7, 1989, John Walsh facilitated  
2           the capture of a New Jersey mass murderer who  
3           had been at large for nearly 18 years.

4           (13) On January 20, 2001, John Walsh  
5           profiled 7 escapees from a maximum security prison  
6           in Texas, known as the “Texas Seven”, on “Amer-  
7           ica’s Most Wanted”, which led to the apprehension  
8           of 5 of the escapees 2 days later and the 2 remain-  
9           ing fugitives the following day.

10          (14) John Walsh profiled 2,034 fugitives from  
11          justice on “America’s Most Wanted” as of December  
12          3, 1998, 1,177 of whom have been captured, includ-  
13          ing 647 who were captured as a direct result of  
14          being profiled.

15          (15) On May 10, 1990, John Walsh and  
16          “America’s Most Wanted” for the first time helped  
17          recover a missing child, Nicole Ravesi, and aided in  
18          the arrest of her abductor, Kenneth Cole.

19          (16) In all, John Walsh has profiled 465 cases  
20          involving missing or kidnapped persons, 30 of whom  
21          have been reunited with their families.

22          (17) John Walsh has profiled 285 criminal sus-  
23          pects whose identities were unknown to law enforce-  
24          ment officials, and 6 of the suspects have been iden-  
25          tified as a result of being profiled.

1           (18) At the request of law enforcement officials,  
2           John Walsh has also profiled 35 unidentified victims  
3           of foul play, and 2 of the victims have been identi-  
4           fied as a result of being profiled.

5           (19) The outstanding contributions of John  
6           Walsh to crime victims and the law enforcement  
7           community have come at no cost to the taxpayers of  
8           the United States.

9           (20) John Walsh, through “America’s Most  
10          Wanted” and through other endeavors, continues to  
11          serve law enforcement officials and crime victims  
12          through his unflinching dedication to pursuing and  
13          capturing dangerous fugitives, protecting the safety  
14          of children, and bringing closure to victims of crime  
15          in the United States.

16 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

17          (a) **PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.**—The President is  
18          authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold  
19          medal of appropriate design to John Walsh in recognition  
20          of his outstanding and enduring contributions to the Na-  
21          tion through his work in the fields of law enforcement and  
22          victims’ rights.

23          (b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For the purpose of the  
24          presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
25          of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the

1 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
2 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the  
3 Secretary.

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

5 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
6 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
7 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price  
8 sufficient to cover the cost of the bronze medals (including  
9 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-  
10 penses) and the cost of the gold medal.

11 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

12 The medals struck under this Act are national medals  
13 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

14 **SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

15 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be  
16 charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
17 Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the  
18 cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

19 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
20 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be  
21 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
22 Fund.

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