

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1003

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. WATERS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SIRES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. BASS, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. EVANS, Mr. COLE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Aretha Franklin in recognition of her contributions of outstanding artistic and historical significance to culture in 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 “Aretha Franklin Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Aretha Franklin was born on March 25,
9 1942, in Memphis, Tennessee, and died peacefully at
10 her home in Detroit, Michigan, surrounded by family
11 and loved ones on August 16, 2018.

12 (2) Aretha Franklin’s musical talents have in-
13 fluenced generations of musicians and political lead-
14 ers, creating a legacy that spans an incredible 6 dec-
15 ades.

16 (3) Aretha Franklin, dubbed the “Queen of
17 Soul”, was the first woman ever inducted into the
18 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, was a 2005 recipient
19 of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and was a
20 1999 recipient of the National Medal of Arts and
21 Humanities Award, among other accolades.

22 (4) Aretha Franklin’s music served as a 1960s
23 call to action that inspired thousands to join civil
24 rights movements and still resonates across these
25 movements today.

1 (5) Aretha Franklin’s contributions go beyond
2 music and arts.

3 (6) Aretha Franklin was also a philanthropist
4 who supported causes that advanced civil rights,
5 human health, and gender equality.

6 (7) Aretha Franklin’s talents instilled hope, up-
7 lifted generations, and changed the lives of millions
8 of people across the globe.

9 (8) The City of Detroit shaped Aretha’s life and
10 music, as her father and church introduced her to
11 local Motown artists.

12 (9) In return, Aretha made countless contribu-
13 tions to the City of Detroit, and few people have
14 played a greater role in shaping the Nation’s cul-
15 turally and socially relevant discography than Aretha
16 Franklin.

17 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

18 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
20 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
21 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress,
22 of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration
23 of Aretha Franklin, in recognition of her outstanding ar-
24 tistic and historical significance to the culture of the
25 United States.

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

7 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
9 gold medal referred to in subsection (a), the gold
10 medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,
11 where it will be displayed as appropriate and made
12 available for research.

13 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
14 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
15 make the gold medal received under this Act avail-
16 able for display elsewhere, particularly at other loca-
17 tions and events associated with Aretha Franklin.

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

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

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

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
3 ant to this Act are national medals 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.

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