

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2503

To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress posthumously to Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M., beloved Chaplain of the Fire Department of New York who passed away as the first recorded victim of the September 11, 2001, attacks in recognition of his example to the Nation of selfless dedication to duty and compassion for one's fellow citizens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2011

Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. GRIMM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress posthumously to Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M., beloved Chaplain of the Fire Department of New York who passed away as the first recorded victim of the September 11, 2001, attacks in recognition of his example to the Nation of selfless dedication to duty and compassion for one's fellow citizens.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Father Mychal Judge,
3 O.F.M., Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M., beloved
7 Chaplain of the Fire Department of New York
8 passed away as the first recorded victim of the Sep-
9 tember 11, 2001, after courageously rushing to the
10 World Trade Center to support, console, and admin-
11 ister last rites to the victims of the attacks.

12 (2) A native of Brooklyn, New York, Judge was
13 born on May 11, 1933, to Irish Catholic immigrants
14 from County Leitrim.

15 (3) After his father died of a long illness when
16 Judge was 6 years old, Judge took odd jobs and
17 shined shoes at Penn Station to help support his
18 mother and 2 sisters.

19 (4) Responding to his strong spiritual calling,
20 Judge entered the Franciscans in 1954.

21 (5) He trained at 4 seminaries in New York,
22 New Jersey, New Hampshire, and the District of
23 Columbia and was ordained a Priest of the Francis-
24 can Order of Friars Minor in 1961.

25 (6) From 1961 to 1986, Father Judge served
26 at St. Anthony’s Shrine in Boston, Massachusetts,

1 St. Joseph's in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Sa-
2 cred Heart in Rochelle Park, New Jersey, Siena Col-
3 lege in Loudonville, New York, and as pastor at St.
4 Joseph's in West Milford, New Jersey.

5 (7) In 1986, Father Judge was assigned to the
6 Monastery of St. Francis of Assisi Church on West
7 31st Street, New York, where he served until his
8 death in 2001.

9 (8) Known for his tremendous capacity for com-
10 passion, Judge was beloved by the firefighters and
11 by the city he served.

12 (9) Judge would daily send notes or make tele-
13 phone calls to recognize birthdays, anniversaries,
14 and other significant dates in the lives of the people
15 he knew.

16 (10) In 1994, Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M.,
17 was named as one of the chaplains for the New York
18 Fire Department serving the boroughs of Manhat-
19 tan, the Bronx, and Staten Island.

20 (11) Father Judge was also well known for
21 ministering to those often alienated by the Church,
22 including the homeless, immigrants, recovering alco-
23 holics, gays and lesbians, and people with AIDS.

1 (12) In the early 1980s, Judge was also one of
2 the first clergymen to minister to gay men with
3 AIDS, their partners, and their families.

4 (13) Father Mychal Judge’s funeral was held
5 on September 15, 2001.

6 (14) Cardinal Edward Egan presided over a
7 Mass of 3,000 people, including city officials, Presi-
8 dent Bill Clinton, and Secretary Hillary Clinton,
9 who called Judge a “bearer of light” and noted his
10 death as a special loss.

11 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
14 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
15 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
16 medal of appropriate design to the next of kin or personal
17 representative of Father Mychal Judge, O.F.M., in rec-
18 ognition of his example to the Nation of selfless dedication
19 to duty and compassion for one’s fellow citizens.

20 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
21 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
22 of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
23 blems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the
24 Secretary.

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

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-
3 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate
4 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to
5 section 2 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-
6 cient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals (including
7 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
8 penses) and the cost of the gold medal.

9 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

12 **SEC. 6. FUNDING.**

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

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

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