111TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 304

To award a congressional gold medal to Joseph Barnett Kirsner, M.D., Ph.D., in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 8, 2009

Mr. Kirk (for himself and Mr. Capuano) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Joseph Barnett Kirsner, M.D., Ph.D., in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the Nation.

- 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) Dr. Joseph B. Kirsner was born in Boston
- 6 in 1909 to poor Ukrainian immigrants.
- 7 (2) Dr. Kirsner earned his medical degree from
- 8 Tufts University, graduating near the top of his
- 9 class, in 1933.

- 1 (3) In 1935, Dr. Kirsner joined the staff of the 2 first academic gastroenterology unit in the United 3 States at the University of Chicago.
 - (4) Dr. Kirsner earned his Ph.D. in gastroenterology from the University of Chicago in 1942.
 - (5) Dr. Kirsner conducted invaluable research on peptic ulcers, inflammatory bowel disease, colitis and Crohn's disease, making numerous breakthroughs in the field on patient management and cancer risk.
 - (6) In more than 60 years of teaching, Dr. Kirsner trained more than 200 of the field's leading specialists, including more than 41 full professors and 14 department chairs.
 - (7) Dr. Kirsner authored nearly 700 publications and 15 textbooks which are the leading teaching materials on gastroenterology.
 - (8) Dr. Kirsner helped found several professional societies, including the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases.
 - (9) Dr. Kirsner was unrelenting in raising funds for gastrointestinal programs around the country, leading to creation of the General Medicine

- Study Section of the National Institutes of Arthritis,
 Metabolic, and Digestive Diseases.
- 3 (10) In 1962, a group of Dr. Kirsner's patients 4 established the Gastro-Intestinal Research Founda-5 tion, which provided immense support for research 6 at the University of Chicago.
 - (11) In 1984, the Gastro-Intestinal Research Foundation raised more than \$2,000,000 to construct the 17,000 square-foot Joseph B. Kirsner Center for the Study of Digestive Diseases.
 - (12) Dr. Kirsner received every major award the field of gastroenterology has to offer, except the one he was not eligible to win: American Digestive Health Foundation's top prize for excellence in clinical research, the Joseph B. Kirsner Award.
 - (13) Aside from his military service in World War II, Dr. Kirsner has practiced medicine, conducted research, and educated young doctors for more than 70 years straight.
 - (14) To this day, Dr. Kirsner remains active in medicine, still seeing the patients he cares so much for.
- 23 (15) The Congress has awarded similar medals 24 to other doctors for their outstanding contributions 25 to the medical field, including Major Walter Reed

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- 1 and his associates in 1928, Dr. Thomas Anthony
- 2 Dooley III in 1961, Dr. Jonas E. Salk in 1977, and
- 3 Dr. Ellis DeBakey in 2007.

4 SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

- 5 (a) Presentation Authorized.—The Speaker of
- 6 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
- 7 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
- 8 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
- 9 medal of appropriate design, to Joseph Barnett Kirsner,
- 10 M.D., Ph.D., in recognition of his many outstanding con-
- 11 tributions to the Nation.
- 12 (b) Design and Striking.—For purposes of the
- 13 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
- 14 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Sec-
- 15 retary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
- 16 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
- 17 retary.

18 SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

- 19 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
- 20 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
- 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. 4. 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 sections
- 6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
- 7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
- 8 items.
- 9 SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF
- 10 SALE.
- 11 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
- 12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
- 13 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
- 14 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
- 15 to this Act.
- 16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
- 17 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
- 18 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 19 Enterprise Fund.

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