

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3223

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

---

## A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

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 “Timothy Nugent Con-  
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Timothy Nugent is considered the “Father  
9 of Accessibility” and the “Godfather of Rehabilita-

1 tion Education” on college campuses and has been  
2 a relentless innovator and advocate for disabled peo-  
3 ple in the United States;

4 (2) Nugent founded the first higher educational  
5 program for wounded and disabled soldiers in the  
6 world after World War II at the University of Illi-  
7 nois at Urbana-Champaign;

8 (3) under the leadership of Nugent, the Univer-  
9 sity of Illinois became a pioneer of architectural ac-  
10 cess, adding curb cuts and wheelchair-accessible bus  
11 routes that Nugent himself designed;

12 (4) when ramps were needed in the place of  
13 steps, Nugent built the first ramps in his garage;

14 (5) even today, many of the architectural acces-  
15 sibility standards and laws of the United States  
16 trace back directly to innovations created by Nugent;

17 (6) while at the University of Illinois, Nugent  
18 also oversaw the development of adaptive sports pro-  
19 grams accommodating athletes in wheelchairs;

20 (7) in the years after World War II, Nugent  
21 confronted the pervasive ableism of the general pub-  
22 lic in his efforts to bring students with disabilities  
23 into the mainstream of college campuses and society;

24 (8) sadly, many people believed that people in  
25 wheelchairs did not belong on college campuses,

1 studying alongside students without limitations in  
2 mobility;

3 (9) many people in the medical community,  
4 whom Nugent proved wrong, believed that rehabilita-  
5 tion and sporting activities were harmful to individ-  
6 uals with such severe disabilities or that education  
7 was not necessary because of their belief that the  
8 lifespan of persons with spinal cord injuries would be  
9 too short for them to benefit from college degrees;

10 (10) Nugent fought back and secured the right  
11 to higher education and mainstream educational in-  
12 tegration for millions of people with disabilities in  
13 the United States; and

14 (11) Nugent would be the first person awarded  
15 a Congressional Gold Medal for work on behalf of  
16 persons with disabilities.

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 presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
22 medal of appropriate design to Timothy Nugent, in rec-  
23 ognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with  
24 disabilities, including disabled veterans.

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

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
9 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
10 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
11 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
12 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
13 and the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

15 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-  
16 als for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
17 States Code.

○