

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5363

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. POSEY, and Ms. SALAZAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field.

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 “Robert Cleckler  
5        (‘Bobby’) Bowden Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden was  
2 born on November 8, 1929, in Birmingham, Ala-  
3 bama.

4           (2) Bobby Bowden served as head coach of the  
5 Florida State University Seminoles from 1976 to  
6 2009.

7           (3) While coaching at the Florida State Univer-  
8 sity, Bobby Bowden’s teams won two national cham-  
9 pionships (1993 and 1999) and 12 Atlantic Coast  
10 Conference titles.

11           (4) Bobby Bowden posted a 316–97–4 record in  
12 his 34 years at Florida State University.

13           (5) Throughout his entire 44 years of coaching  
14 college football, Bobby Bowden won a total of 377  
15 games, making him one of the winningest coaches in  
16 college football history.

17           (6) Bobby Bowden and wife, Ann Estock, his  
18 childhood sweetheart, have been married for 72  
19 years. The couple has six children, 21 grandchildren  
20 and great-grandchildren.

21           (7) In 1999, he coached what would be the first  
22 of many games against a team coached by his son,  
23 “The Bowden Bowl”. This event was the first of its  
24 kind in the history of Division I–A football.

1           (8) In 2004, the Fellowship of Christian Ath-  
2           letes' organization began presenting an annual "The  
3           National Bobby Bowden Award" to a football player  
4           for philanthropic work.

5           (9) In 2011, he was awarded the "Children's  
6           Champion Award for Leadership Development" by  
7           the Children's Hunger Fund, a charitable organiza-  
8           tion, in recognition of his humanitarian work.

9           (10) In 2021, Bobby Bowden received the inau-  
10          gural Florida Governor's Medal of Freedom Award.

11          (11) Bobby Bowden leaves a legacy of leader-  
12          ship for his contributions on the football field and in  
13          his community.

14          (12) While Bobby Bowden is recognized for his  
15          many football accomplishments, he will be remem-  
16          bered as a family man who counted all as part of  
17          his family and encouraged us all to recognize our  
18          own humanity and love our many brothers and sis-  
19          ters.

20          (13) We are better for having known him, even  
21          if we never met him. He stood for our best, recog-  
22          nized our failings, and believed we all had merit.

23          (14) Bobby Bowden's spirit is the American  
24          spirit of which we can be proud and seek to emulate  
25          in both large and small ways.

1           (15) Bobby Bowden never asked for accolades,  
2           and for this, and the totality of his life and his love,  
3           we honor him in perpetuity.

4 **SEC. 3. 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 posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-  
9 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-  
10 ration to Mr. Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden, in rec-  
11 ognition of his achievements both on and off the football  
12 field.

13           (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

14           (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of the  
15 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of  
16 the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
17 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-  
18 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by  
19 the Secretary.

20           (2) IMAGE.—The emblems, devices, and inscrip-  
21 tions determined by the Secretary shall include an  
22 inscription of the name of Robert Cleckler  
23 (“Bobby”) Bowden.

24           (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—Following the award  
25 of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal

1 shall be given to Mr. Robert Cleckler (“Bobby”) Bowden’s  
2 next of kin.

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

4 (a) STRIKING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may  
5 strike duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under  
6 section 3.

7 (b) SELLING OF DUPLICATES.—The Secretary may  
8 sell such duplicates under subsection (a) at a price suffi-  
9 cient to cover the costs of such duplicates, including labor,  
10 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

11 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

12 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this  
13 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title  
14 31, United States Code.

15 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
16 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
17 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

18 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**

19 **SALE.**

20 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is  
21 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
22 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-  
23 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant  
24 to this Act.

1           (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
2 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section  
3 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public  
4 Enterprise Fund.

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