

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1863

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2015

Mr. KIRK introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## 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 fought for and secured the right to  
5       higher education and mainstream education integra-  
6       tion for millions of people with disabilities in the  
7       United States;

8               (3) many of the architectural accessibility  
9       standards and laws of the United States trace back  
10      directly to innovations created by Nugent;

11              (4) while at the University of Illinois, Nugent  
12      oversaw the development of adaptive sports pro-  
13      grams accommodating athletes in wheelchairs;

14              (5) Nugent founded the first higher educational  
15      program for wounded and disabled soldiers in the  
16      world after World War II;

17              (6) in the years after World War II, Nugent  
18      confronted the bias of the general public in his ef-  
19      forts to bring students with disabilities into the  
20      mainstream of college campuses and society;

21              (7) Nugent disproved many people in the med-  
22      ical community who believed that rehabilitation and  
23      sporting activities were harmful to individuals with  
24      such severe disabilities or that education was not  
25      necessary because of their belief that the lifespan of

1 persons with spinal cord injuries would be too short  
2 for them to benefit from college degrees; and

3 (8) Nugent would be the first person awarded  
4 a Congressional Gold Medal for work on behalf of  
5 persons with disabilities.

6 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

7 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
8 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
9 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
10 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
11 medal of appropriate design to Timothy Nugent, in rec-  
12 ognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with  
13 disabilities, including disabled veterans.

14 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
15 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
16 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall  
17 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and  
18 inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

19 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

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