

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to all Gold Star Families  
in recognition of their sacrifice and service to the United States.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and  
referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to all  
Gold Star Families in recognition of their sacrifice and  
service to the United States.

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 “Gold Star Families  
5       Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The fortitude of Gold Star Families in the  
9       midst of tragedy strengthen the resolve of the  
10      United States.

1           (2) Since World War I, military families have  
2       used Gold Stars to memorialize their family mem-  
3       ber's sacrifice on behalf of the country, represent the  
4       devotion and pride of the family in this sacrifice,  
5       and glorify rather than grieve their military service.

6           (3) Gold Stars were first used by military fami-  
7       lies during World War I.

8           (4) When a family member passed away during  
9       their service, families would place a Gold Star on  
10      their Service Flag to represent the sacrifice the fam-  
11      ily had paid in the cause of freedom.

12          (5) On May 28, 1918, President Wilson ap-  
13      proved a suggestion made by the Women's Com-  
14      mittee of the Council of National Defenses that, in-  
15      stead of wearing conventional mourning garb for rel-  
16      atives who passed away during their military service,  
17      women would wear a black band with a gilt star on  
18      their left arm to signify each member of the family  
19      who gave their life for the United States.

20          (6) In 1928, 25 mothers of fallen  
21      servicemembers worked together to establish a na-  
22      tional organization to support those who had lost  
23      their children during the war, which was known as  
24      the American Gold Star Mothers Inc. and officially  
25      incorporated in January 1929.

1           (7) Since September 1936, the United States  
2           has observed various recognized dates to support  
3           Gold Star Families and honor the legacy of fallen  
4           heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

5           (8) In 1945, Eleanor Roosevelt helped to estab-  
6           lish Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., a national or-  
7           ganization to support the families left behind by the  
8           fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces  
9           who died on active duty or as a result of a service-  
10          connected disability.

11          (9) In August 1947, Congress authorized the  
12          issuance of gold star lapel pins to families who lost  
13          a loved one in combat.

14          (10) The extraordinary contribution of Gold  
15          Star Families is beyond measure, not merely for  
16          their loss, but the comfort they selflessly provide  
17          others and their model of service and sacrifice.

18          (11) Through their service, Gold Star Families  
19          keep alive the spirit of patriotism and love of coun-  
20          try and promote peace and good will for the United  
21          States and all other countries.

22          (12) Gold Star Families continue to perpetuate  
23          the memory of those who fought and died on behalf  
24          of the United States.

1           (13) Gold Star Families embody the purpose of  
2           the Congressional Gold Medal of honoring distin-  
3           guished contributions, recognizing virtues of patriot-  
4           ism, and remembering momentous occasions in his-  
5           tory.

6   **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7           In this Act, the term “Gold Star Family” includes  
8           any individual described in section 3.2 of Department of  
9           Defense Instruction 1348.36.

10   **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11           (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tem-  
12           pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
13           resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
14           award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of  
15           appropriate design to all Gold Star Families in recognition  
16           of their dedication, contributions, and sacrifice to the  
17           United States.

18           (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
19           award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall  
20           strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and  
21           inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

22           (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
24           gold medal in honor of Gold Star Families, the gold  
25           medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution,

1       where it will be available for display as appropriate  
2       and made available for research.

3           (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
4       Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should  
5       make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)  
6       available for display elsewhere, particularly at other  
7       appropriate locations associated with Gold Star  
8       Families.

9       (d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations that the  
11       Secretary may promulgate, the Secretary may strike  
12       and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal  
13       struck under this Act, as a price sufficient to cover  
14       the costs of the medals, including labor, materials,  
15       dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

16           (2) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—The amounts re-  
17       ceived from the sale of duplicate medals under para-  
18       graph (1) shall be deposited in the United States  
19       Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

20   **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

21           (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this  
22       Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title  
23       31, United States Code.

1       (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
2 5134 of title 31, United States, Code, all medals struck  
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.