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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3544

To award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LATTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in recognition of their superior service and major contributions during World War II.

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 "Office of Strategic
5 Services Congressional Gold Medal Act".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was
2 America's first effort to implement a system of stra-
3 tegic intelligence during World War II and provided
4 the basis for the modern-day American intelligence
5 and special operations communities.

6 (2) OSS founder General William J. Donovan is
7 the only person in American history to receive our
8 Nation's four highest military decorations, including
9 the Medal of Honor. Upon learning of his death in
10 1959, President Eisenhower called General Donovan
11 the "last hero". In addition to founding and leading
12 the OSS, General Donovan was also selected by
13 President Roosevelt, who called him his "secret
14 legs", as an emissary to Great Britain and conti-
15 nental Europe before the United States entered
16 World War II.

17 (3) All the military branches during World War
18 II contributed personnel to the OSS. The present-
19 day Special Operations Forces trace their lineage to
20 the OSS. Its Maritime Unit was a precursor to the
21 U.S. Navy SEALs. The OSS Operational Groups
22 and Jedburghs were forerunners to U.S. Army Spe-
23 cial Forces. The 801st/492nd Bombardment Group
24 ("Carpetbaggers") were progenitors to the Air Force
25 Special Operations Command. The Marines who

1 served in the OSS, including the actor Sterling Hay-
2 den and Col. William Eddy, whom General Donovan
3 described as the “American Lawrence of Arabia”,
4 were predecessors to the Marines Special Operations
5 Command. U.S. Coast Guard personnel were re-
6 cruited for the Maritime Unit and the Operational
7 Swimmer Group.

8 (4) The OSS organized, trained, supplied, and
9 fought with resistance organizations throughout Eu-
10 rope and Asia that played an important role in
11 America’s victory during World War II. President
12 Eisenhower credited the work of the OSS with the
13 French Resistance during the liberation of France
14 as the equivalent of having an extra division.

15 (5) Four future directors of central intelligence
16 served as OSS officers: William Casey, William
17 Colby, Allen Dulles, and Richard Helms.

18 (6) Women comprised more than one-third of
19 OSS personnel and played a critical role in the orga-
20 nization. They included Virginia Hall, the only civil-
21 ian female to receive a Distinguished Service Cross
22 in World War II, and Julia Child.

23 (7) OSS recruited Fritz Kolbe, a German dip-
24 lomat who became America’s most important spy
25 against the Nazis in World War II.

1 (8) America's leading scientists and scholars
2 served in the OSS Research and Analysis Branch,
3 including Ralph Bunche, the first African-American
4 to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, Pulitzer Prize-win-
5 ning historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Supreme
6 Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, Sherman Kent,
7 John King Fairbank, and Walt Rostow. It ranks in-
8 cluded seven future presidents of the American His-
9 torical Association, five of the American Economic
10 Association, and two Nobel laureates. The U.S. De-
11 partment of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Re-
12 search traces its creation to the OSS Research and
13 Analysis Branch.

14 (9) The OSS invented and employed new tech-
15 nology through its Research and Development
16 Branch, inventing new weapons and revolutionary
17 communications equipment. Dr. Christian
18 Lambertsen invented the first underwater re-
19 breathing apparatus that was first utilized by the
20 OSS and is known today as SCUBA.

21 (10) OSS Detachment 101 operated in Burma
22 and pioneered the art of unconventional warfare. It
23 was the first United States unit to deploy a large
24 guerrilla army deep in enemy territory. It has been
25 credited with the highest kill/loss ratio for any infan-

1 try-type unit in American military history and was
2 awarded a Presidential Unit Citation.

3 (11) Its X-2 branch pioneered counterintel-
4 ligence with the British and established the modern
5 counterintelligence community. The network of con-
6 tacts built by the OSS with foreign intelligence serv-
7 ices lead to enduring Cold War alliances.

8 (12) Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of
9 French North Africa in November 1942, was aided
10 by the networks established and information ac-
11 quired by the OSS to guide Allied landings.

12 (13) OSS Operation Halyard rescued more
13 than 500 downed airmen trapped behind enemy lines
14 in Yugoslavia, one of the most daring and successful
15 rescue operations of World War II.

16 (14) OSS "Mercy Missions" at the end of
17 World War II saved the lives of thousands of Allied
18 prisoners of war whom it was feared would be mur-
19 dered by the Japanese.

20 (15) The handful of surviving men and women
21 of the OSS, whom General Donovan called his "glo-
22 rious amateurs", are among the greatest generation.
23 They have never been collectively recognized for
24 their heroic and pioneering service in World War II.

1 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) **PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.**—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
6 medal of appropriate design in commemoration to the
7 members of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), in rec-
8 ognition of their superior service and major contributions
9 during World War II.

10 (b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For purposes of the
11 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
12 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
13 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
14 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
15 retary.

16 (c) **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Following the award of the
18 gold medal in commemoration to the members of the
19 Office of Strategic Services under subsection (a), the
20 gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Insti-
21 tution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and
22 made available for research.

23 (2) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of
24 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
25 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
26 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other

1 appropriate locations associated with the Office of
2 Strategic Services.

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

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

10 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

11 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
12 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
13 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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