



Legislative Bulletin.....September 11, 2003

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H.R. 1538 — True American Heroes Act of 2003 (King (NY))

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, September 10, 2003.

Summary: H.R. 1538 authorizes Congressional Gold Medals for the next of kin of three different groups of people killed on September 11, 2001. The bill also authorizes the creation of 25,000 commemorative gold coins in \$50 denominations, an unspecified number of silver coins in \$1 denominations, and also commemorative 50-cent pieces.

The bill authorizes the awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal to the next of kin or personal representative of:

- officers, emergency workers, and other employees of State and local government agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and of the United States Government and others, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City;
- each passenger or crew member on board United Airlines Flight 93 who is identified by the Attorney General as having aided in the effort to resist the hijackers on board the plane; and
- officers, emergency workers, and other employees of the United States Government, who responded to the attacks on the Pentagon and perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the number of medals to be presented under this bill. The Treasury is authorized to strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medals for the first two categories above.

Additional Information: To see the list of Gold Medal recipients from 1776 though January of 2002, go this page on the House Clerk's website:

http://clerk.house.gov/histHigh/Congressional_History/goldMedal.php

343 firefighters died in the WTC, as did 75 police officers. 40 victims were killed in the crash of Flight 93. Statistics on state and federal government employees who were killed are unavailable.

Source: <http://www.september11news.com/911Art.htm>

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on April 1, 2003, and referred to the House Committee on Financial Services. The Committee did not consider the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate is unavailable. For previous Congressional Gold Medal legislation, CBO has estimated that it costs \$30,000 to design a Gold Medal and that **each medal has \$5,500 worth of gold.** H.R. 1538 authorizes the striking of three apparently different designs of gold medals, thus estimated design costs could run \$90,000.

If at least 500 Congressional Gold Medals are authorized under H.R. 1538, there would be a cost of at least \$2.75 million for the gold in the medals (\$5,500 each). The sale of commemorative coins have historically raised revenue for the federal government, and under this bill a surcharge of \$100 for the \$50 coins, \$10 for the \$1 dollar coin and \$5 for the half dollar coins is authorized, but it cannot be determined if the sale of commemorative coins authorized under H.R. 1538 will cover the cost of the gold, silver, and bronze medals authorized for the next of kin. Excess proceeds will be deposited into a fund at the Treasury to cover the cost of producing all coins.

Constitutional Authority: A Committee Report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: The bill authorizes the Treasury Department to design and strike three designs for Congressional Gold Medals for certain victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. It also authorizes the design and sale of commemorative coins.

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H.R. 911 — To authorize the establishment of a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad (*Turner of Texas*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Thursday, September 11th.

Summary: H.R. 911 establishes a "Victims of Terrorism Memorial Advisory Board" made up of 13 members appointed by the President in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior

and the Secretary of Defense no later than three months after enactment of the bill. Members would serve for the life of the Board. The Chairperson of the Board would be a member of the Board elected by a majority of the rest of the members at the first Board meeting. Duties of the Board include:

- establishing a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States (in the U.S. or abroad) on Federal land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia;
- raising the necessary funds to establish, design, construct, and maintain the memorial (donations may be accepted); and
- consulting under section 7 of the Commemorative Works Act (which requires consultation with the National Capital Memorial Commission, the National Capital Planning Commission, and other entities) no later than 1 year after enactment of the bill.

The Secretary of the Interior is required to detail to the Advisory Board necessary support staff.

The Advisory Board is required to terminate no later than 120 days after completion of the memorial. If there are excess funds after all payments are made for the establishment of the memorial, such funds must be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Committee Action: H.R. 911 was introduced on February 25, 2003, and referred to the Committee on Resources. The Committee did not act on the legislation.

Cost to Taxpayers: Although a cost estimate is not available, H.R. 911 does not authorize any expenditure and requires funds for the memorial to be raised by the Advisory Board.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: The bill creates a new advisory board for a victims of terrorism memorial.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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