

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR PRESIDENT JOSE
MARIA AZNAR OF SPAIN

APRIL 20, 2004.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. OXLEY, from the Committee on Financial Services,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2131]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Financial Services, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2131) to award a congressional gold medal to President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 2131 authorizes the striking and presentation of a Congressional Gold Medal to Jose Maria Aznar, the former President of Spain, in recognition of the fact that he has been a steadfast ally

of the United States and a leader in the global fight against terrorism.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

H.R. 2131 authorizes the striking and awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal to former President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Born in Madrid in 1953, President Aznar was a tax inspector and a leader of the Popular Alliance before being elected to Parliament in 1989. He served as Spain's President from 1996 through 2004. During that time, the legislation notes, President Aznar was a staunch ally of the United States, particularly in the international fight against terrorism.

The legislation directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make appropriate arrangements for the presentation of the medal, and allows for the striking and sale of duplicates of the gold medal, in bronze. Proceeds from the sale of the duplicates are to be applied toward the costs of designing and striking the gold medal.

HEARINGS

The Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology held a hearing on March 10, 2004, on H.R. 2768, the John Marshall Commemorative Coin Act; H.R. 2131, authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal for Spain's President Jose Maria Aznar; H.R. 1914, the Jamestown 400th Anniversary Commemorative coin Act; and H.R. 3277, the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. The following witnesses testified: The Honorable William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States; The Honorable Richard L. Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State; The Honorable J. Steven Griles, Deputy Secretary of the Interior; and Gen. Carl E. Mundy Jr. USMC (Ret.).

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology met in open session on March 10, 2004 and approved H.R. 2131 for full Committee consideration.

The Committee on Financial Services met in open session on March 17, 2004 and ordered H.R. 2131 reported to the House with a favorable recommendation by a voice vote, without amendment.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. No record votes were taken with in conjunction with the consideration of this legislation. A motion by Mr. Oxley to report the bill to the House with a favorable recommendation was agreed to by a voice vote.

The following amendment was considered:

An amendment offered by Mr. Frank of Massachusetts, No. 1, striking the word "gold" and inserting the word "silver" in lieu thereof, was not agreed to by a voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee establishes the following performance related goals and objectives for this legislation:

The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall present a Congressional Gold Medal to President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

In compliance with clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that this legislation would result in no new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

The Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is the cost estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2004.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed estimate for H.R. 2131, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal to President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH M. ROBINSON
(For Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director).

Enclosure.

H.R. 2131—A bill to award a Congressional gold medal to President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain

H.R. 2131 would authorize the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to present a gold medal to President Jose Maria Aznar on behalf of

the Congress. To help recover the costs of the medal, the legislation would authorize the Mint to strike and sell bronze duplicates of the medal at a price that covers production costs for both the medal and the duplicates.

Based on the costs of recent medals produced by the Mint, CBO estimates that the act would not significantly increase direct spending from the U.S. Mint Public Enterprise Fund. We estimate that the gold medal would cost about \$35,000 to produce in fiscal year 2004, including about \$5,000 for the cost of the gold and around \$30,000 for the costs to design, engrave, and manufacture the medal. CBO expects that the Mint would recoup little of its costs by selling bronze duplicates to the public.

H.R. 2131 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that the Constitutional Authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States) and clause 5 (relating to the coinage of money).

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Findings

This section presents certain findings regarding President Aznar's history as a strong ally of the United States and a leader in the global fight against terrorism.

Section 2. Congressional gold medal

This section directs the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make appropriate arrangements to present to President Aznar a medal of appropriate design and directs the Secretary of the Treasury to strike the medal.

Section 3. Duplicate medals

This section authorizes the striking and sale of bronze duplicates of the gold medal, with the proceeds of sales to cover the cost of production.

Section 4. Status of medals

This section establishes the medals as national medals treated as numismatic items.

Section 5. Authority to use fund amounts and proceeds of sale

This section authorizes the use of funds from the United States Mint's Public Enterprise Fund to create the medal and duplicates, and to return to the fund proceeds of any sales.