

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2939

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2013

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Shimon Peres was born in Poland in 1923.

6 (2) The Peres family emigrated to Tel Aviv in
7 1934, and all of the family members of Shimon
8 Peres who remained in Poland were murdered dur-
9 ing the Holocaust.

10 (3) Before Israel gained independence, Shimon
11 Peres earned the respect of senior leaders in the

1 independence movement in Israel, most notably
2 David Ben-Gurion.

3 (4) The founding generation of Israel was cen-
4 tral to the development of Israel, and Shimon Peres
5 is the only surviving member of that founding gen-
6 eration.

7 (5) Shimon Peres has served in numerous high-
8 level cabinet positions and ministerial posts in Israel,
9 including head of the Israeli Navy, Minister of De-
10 fense, Foreign Minister, Prime Minister, and Presi-
11 dent, among many others.

12 (6) Shimon Peres has honorably served Israel
13 for over 70 years, during which he has significantly
14 contributed to United States interests and has
15 played a pivotal role in forging the strong and un-
16 breakable bond between the United States and
17 Israel.

18 (7) By presenting the Congressional Gold
19 Medal to Shimon Peres, the first to be awarded to
20 a sitting President of Israel, Congress proclaims its
21 unbreakable bond with Israel and reaffirms its con-
22 tinual support for Israel as we commemorate the
23 65th anniversary of the independence of Israel and
24 the 90th birthday of Shimon Peres, which are both
25 significant milestones in Israeli history.

1 (8) Maintaining strong bilateral relations be-
2 tween the United States and Israel has been a pri-
3 ority of Shimon Peres since he began working with
4 the United States in the days of John F. Kennedy.
5 The strong bond is exemplified by the following:

6 (A) President Reagan said to Shimon
7 Peres upon his visit to the United States, “Mr.
8 Prime Minister, I thank you very much for your
9 visit. It’s been an occasion to renew a friend-
10 ship and to review and enhance the strength of
11 our unique bilateral relationship.”.

12 (B) At another point President Reagan
13 said of Shimon Peres, “His vision, his states-
14 manship and his tenacity are greatly appre-
15 ciated here.”.

16 (C) While visiting with Shimon Peres at
17 the Residence of the President in Jerusalem,
18 President Obama described Shimon Peres as
19 “. . . a son of Israel who’s devoted his life to
20 keeping Israel strong and sustaining the bonds
21 between our two nations”.

22 (D) On March 20, 2013, Shimon Peres re-
23 affirmed his belief in the relationship between
24 the United States and Israel, stating, “America
25 stood by our side from the very beginning. You

1 support us as we rebuild our ancient homeland
2 and as we defend our land. From Holocaust to
3 redemption.”.

4 (E) On March 21, 2013, Shimon Peres
5 stated, “. . . America is so great and we are so
6 small. But I learned that you don’t measure us
7 by size, but by values. When it comes to values,
8 we are you and you are us . . . As I look back,
9 I feel that the Israel of today has exceeded the
10 vision we had 65 years ago. Reality has sur-
11 passed our dreams. The United States of Amer-
12 ica helped us to make this possible.”.

13 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

14 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tem-
15 pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the
17 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of
18 appropriate design in honor of President Shimon Peres.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
20 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
21 Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
22 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
23 retary.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-
3 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate
4 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to
5 section 2 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-
6 cient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, ma-
7 terials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

8 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

9 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-
10 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
11 Code.

12 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
13 **SALE.**

14 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF CHARGES.**—There is author-
15 ized to be charged against the United States Mint Public
16 Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be necessary to
17 pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this
18 Act.

19 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the
20 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
21 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
22 Fund.

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