


(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Defenders of Ukraine, collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the defense of the free democracy of Ukraine against Russia's unprovoked war of aggression.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. SPARTZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Defenders of Ukraine, collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the defense of the free democracy of Ukraine against Russia's unprovoked war of aggression.

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 "Defenders of Ukraine
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The courage and strength of Ukrainian citi-
2 zens resisting their autocratic invaders has strength-
3 ened the resolve of the United States and their Al-
4 lies, increasing support for the provision of military
5 and humanitarian aid.

6 (2) In April 2014, Russia invaded the Donetsk
7 and Luhansk regions of Eastern Ukraine; this initial
8 conflict claimed approximately 14,000 lives.

9 (3) On February 24, 2022, the military of the
10 Russian Federation launched a further unprovoked
11 full-scale invasion of a peaceful, independent coun-
12 try: Ukraine.

13 (4) In response to this unprovoked invasion,
14 thousands of Ukrainians have heroically volunteered
15 to defend their Country, joining its Armed Forces
16 and taking up arms against the Russian armed
17 forces.

18 (5) Russia has used disproportionate and crimi-
19 nal force against civilians, destroying apartment
20 buildings, schools, kindergartens, and hospitals.

21 (6) Russia's unjustifiable invasion has claimed
22 thousands of lives, including children and the elder-
23 ly.

24 (7) Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have
25 been forced to leave their homes and country behind.

1 (8) Ukrainian civilians have been effective in
2 disrupting the Russian invasion, blocking the enemy
3 using a wide range of methods including dismantling
4 nearby road signs, using cranes to move cement
5 blocks in the way, producing petrol bombs, and set-
6 ting up sandbags to block roadways.

7 (9) Ukrainian civilians, both armed and un-
8 armed, have shown immense bravery in their heroic
9 attempts to disrupt the Russian war efforts, with lit-
10 tle regard for their own safety.

11 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
14 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
15 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
16 medal of appropriate design to the Defenders of Ukraine,
17 collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the de-
18 fense of the free democracy of Ukraine against Russia’s
19 unprovoked war of aggression.

20 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
21 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
22 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
23 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
24 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
25 Secretary.

1 (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—Following the presen-
2 tation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

3 (1) give the gold medal to the government of
4 Ukraine; or

5 (2) if the Secretary determines that Ukraine
6 does not have a democratically-elected government—

7 (A) transfer the gold medal temporarily to
8 the Smithsonian Institution for display; and

9 (B) transfer the gold medal to Ukraine
10 after determining that Ukraine does have a
11 democratically-elected government.

12 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

13 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
14 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at
15 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
16 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

17 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

18 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
19 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
20 51 of title 31, United States Code.

21 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
22 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
23 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.