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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Justin Smith Morrill,  
United States Senator of the State of Vermont, in recognition of his  
lasting contributions to higher education opportunity for all Americans.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. NEWHOUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To posthumously award a Congressional gold medal to Justin  
Smith Morrill, United States Senator of the State of  
Vermont, in recognition of his lasting contributions to  
higher education opportunity for all Americans.

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 “Justin Smith Morrill  
5       Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that:

1           (1) Justin Smith Morrill, the son of a black-  
2           smith and farmer, was born in Strafford, Vermont  
3           on April 14, 1810. He prospered as a merchant and  
4           businessman in his early years and served in public  
5           office the remainder of his life.

6           (2) Morrill, the longest serving Member of Con-  
7           gress in the Nineteenth Century and Chairman of  
8           the Committee on Ways and Means in the United  
9           States House of Representatives and the Committee  
10          on Finance in the United States Senate, served 5  
11          terms in the United States House of Representa-  
12          tives, from 1854 to 1869 and 6 terms in the United  
13          States Senate, from 1872 to 1898.

14          (3) Morrill, inspired by his own lack of public  
15          education opportunity beyond his fifteenth birthday,  
16          proposed legislation that would set aside public lands  
17          to be sold by the states to create and fund state-run  
18          colleges.

19          (4) Congress enacted the First Morrill Act (7  
20          U.S.C. 301 et. seq.) on July 2, 1862, marking the  
21          genesis of the national focus on higher education in  
22          the United States through the establishment of the  
23          land-grant institutions.

24          (5) Congress enacted the Second Morrill Act (7  
25          U.S.C. 321 et. seq.) on August 30, 1890, estab-

1       lishing what is now a flourishing system of histori-  
2       cally Black land-grant colleges and universities  
3       across the nation.

4           (6) Land-grant and other public research uni-  
5       versities today award nearly 1,000,000 degrees an-  
6       nually and perform more than \$37,000,000,000 of  
7       research for improving the lives of Americans.

8           (7) In 1864, Morrill introduced House Joint  
9       Resolution 66 which created National Statuary Hall  
10      from the Old Hall of the U.S. House of Representa-  
11      tives and authorized the President of the United  
12      States to invite states to submit two statues of wor-  
13      thy citizens to be exhibited, which continues as a  
14      daily inspiration to the thousands of visitors to the  
15      United States Capitol.

16          (8) As chairman of the Committee on Buildings  
17      and Grounds, Morrill served as principal advocate  
18      for the construction and financing of the Thomas  
19      Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress; for  
20      inviting Frederick Law Olmstead to design the  
21      present landscape of the Capitol; for planning the lo-  
22      cation of the United States Supreme Court Building;  
23      for raising funds to complete the Washington Monu-  
24      ment; and for championing the Smithsonian Institu-  
25      tion.

1           (9) In delivering his last speech as Senator just  
2           two weeks before his death, Morrill noted that the  
3           location of the United States Supreme Court in close  
4           proximity to the United States Capitol and the Li-  
5           brary of Congress “would form a harmonious group  
6           of large public structures on Capitol Hill of un-  
7           equaled grandeur, and will be appreciated by the  
8           American people forever”.

9           (10) In his 1882 book “Self-Consciousness of  
10          Noted Persons”, Morrill concluded, “The spur to ac-  
11          quire some future reputation, to be earned by con-  
12          scious fidelity, keeps the work of men always at its  
13          best, the mechanic at the top of his skill, the mer-  
14          chant ever mindful of the upright and downright in  
15          trade; the pulpit and the bar it pushes on to effort  
16          and to eloquence; it makes the soldier brave in bat-  
17          tle, the politician ashamed not be a patriot, and the  
18          statesman unwilling to give up to party what was  
19          meant for mankind.”.

20          (11) After Morrill died on December 28, 1898,  
21          eulogies extolled Morrill’s leadership, integrity and  
22          good-will, including the comments of Senator George  
23          Graham Vest of Missouri who stated, “If all those  
24          to whom he did acts of kindness could whisper  
25          across his grave, it would make an anthem sweeter

1       and more sonorous than any that ever pealed  
2       through cathedral aisle” and those of Senator  
3       George Hoar of Massachusetts who recalled that  
4       Justin Morrill, “knew in his youth the veterans of  
5       the Revolution and the generation who declared  
6       independence and framed the Constitution...He knew  
7       the whole history of his country from the time of her  
8       independence, partly from the lips of those who  
9       shaped it, partly because of the large share he had  
10      in it himself.”.

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 posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-  
16   gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-  
17   ration of Justin Smith Morrill in recognition of his lasting  
18   contributions to higher education opportunity for all  
19   Americans.

20       (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose 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—

1           (1) an inscription stating “A Statesman who  
2       did not give up to party what was intended for hu-  
3       mankind”; and

4           (2) suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions  
5       to be determined by the Secretary.

6       (c) SMITHSONIAN.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the  
8       gold medal in honor of Justin Smith Morrill under  
9       subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the  
10      Smithsonian, where it shall be available for display  
11      as appropriate and made available for research.

12          (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
13      Congress that the Smithsonian should make the gold  
14      medal received under paragraph (1) available for  
15      display or for loan as appropriate so that it may be  
16      displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appro-  
17      priate locations associated with the life of Justin  
18      Smith Morrill.

19   **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

20      The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
21      bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
22      under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
23      a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
24      materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
25      and the cost of the gold medal.

1   **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2           (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
3 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5           (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck  
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.