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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
2D 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.

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.

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

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

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

23 (9) In delivering his last speech as Senator just
24 two weeks before his death, Morrill noted that the
25 location of the United States Supreme Court in close

1 proximity to the United States Capitol and the Li-
2 brary of Congress “would form a harmonious group
3 of large public structures on Capitol Hill of un-
4 equaled grandeur, and will be appreciated by the
5 American people forever”.

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

17 (11) After Morrill died on December 28, 1898,
18 eulogies extolled Morrill’s leadership, integrity and
19 good-will, including the comments of Senator George
20 Graham Vest of Missouri who stated, “If all those
21 to whom he did acts of kindness could whisper
22 across his grave, it would make an anthem sweeter
23 and more sonorous than any that ever pealed
24 through cathedral aisle” and those of Senator
25 George Hoar of Massachusetts who recalled that

1 Justin Morrill, “knew in his youth the veterans of
2 the Revolution and the generation who declared
3 independence and framed the Constitution...He knew
4 the whole history of his country from the time of her
5 independence, partly from the lips of those who
6 shaped it, partly because of the large share he had
7 in it himself.”.

8 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

9 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
10 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
11 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
12 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-
13 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-
14 ration of Justin Smith Morrill in recognition of his lasting
15 contributions to higher education opportunity for all
16 Americans.

17 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
18 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
19 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
20 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with—

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

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

1 (c) SMITHSONIAN.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
3 gold medal in honor of Justin Smith Morrill under
4 subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the
5 Smithsonian, where it shall be available for display
6 as appropriate and made available for research.

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

14 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

21 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

22 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
23 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
24 51 of title 31, United States Code.

1 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.