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(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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota 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) In 1991, Ukraine declared independence
2 from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, key to
3 the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Soon after,
4 Ukraine disposed of the world's third largest nuclear
5 arsenal.

6 (2) In April 2014, the Russian Federation an-
7 nexed Crimea and invaded the Donetsk and
8 Luhansk regions of Eastern Ukraine; this initial
9 conflict claimed approximately 14,000 lives.

10 (3) On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federa-
11 tion expanded its war against Ukraine, launching a
12 further unprovoked full-scale invasion of the peace-
13 ful, independent country.

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

19 (5) Russia's unjustifiable invasion has claimed
20 thousands of innocent lives, including children and
21 the elderly, through the targeting of civilians and the
22 destruction of civilian infrastructure including apart-
23 ment buildings, schools, kindergartens, hotels, and
24 hospitals.

1 (6) Millions of Ukrainians have been forced to
2 leave their homes and country behind.

3 (7) Ukrainian civilians, the Armed Forces of
4 Ukraine, the democratic government, and its elected
5 and civilian officials have been effective in disrupting
6 the Russian invasion, blocking the enemy using a
7 wide range of methods including direct combat, dis-
8 mantling nearby road signs, using cranes to move
9 cement blocks in the way, producing improvised pet-
10 rol bombs, and setting up sandbags to block road-
11 ways.

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

16 (9) The courage and strength of Ukrainian citi-
17 zens resisting their autocratic invaders has strength-
18 ened the resolve of the United States and their al-
19 lies, increasing support for the provision of military
20 and humanitarian aid.

21 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
23 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
24 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
25 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold

1 medal of appropriate design to the Defenders of Ukraine,
2 collectively, in recognition of their crucial role in the de-
3 fense of the free democracy of Ukraine against Russia's
4 unprovoked war of aggression.

5 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
6 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
7 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
8 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
9 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
10 Secretary.

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

13 (1) give the gold medal to the government of
14 Ukraine; or

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

17 (A) transfer the gold medal temporarily to
18 the Smithsonian Institution for display; and

19 (B) transfer the gold medal to Ukraine
20 after determining that Ukraine does have a
21 democratically-elected government.

22 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

23 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
24 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at

1 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
2 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
5 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
6 51 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
8 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
9 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.