

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3557

AN ACT

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

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To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor is a
4 man of deep compassion, great intellect, and tireless
5 devotion to both spiritual guidance and humani-
6 tarianism.

7 (2) John Joseph O'Connor was born on Janu-
8 ary 15, 1920, in southwest Philadelphia, the son of
9 Thomas J. O'Connor and Mary Gomple O'Connor.

10 (3) John Cardinal O'Connor joined the Navy
11 Chaplains Corps in June 1952 during the Korean
12 Conflict, served with elements of both the Navy and
13 the Marine Corps, and saw combat action in Viet-
14 nam. He later served as chaplain of the United
15 States Naval Academy and was appointed as Chief
16 of Chaplains of the Navy with the grade of rear ad-
17 miral, from which position he retired four years
18 later, in May 1979. He was ordained a Bishop by
19 Pope John Paul II on May 27, 1979. He then
20 served as Vicar General of the Military Ordinariate
21 (now the Archdiocese for the Military Services) until
22 1984.

23 (4) John Cardinal O'Connor became Bishop of
24 Scranton, Pennsylvania, on May 10, 1983, was
25 named Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of
26 New York on January 31, 1984, and was elevated

1 to the rank of Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on
2 May 25, 1985.

3 (5) John Cardinal O'Connor has demonstrated
4 an unwavering commitment to public and parochial
5 school education. He has supported and strength-
6 ened Catholic schools in their mission to provide a
7 quality education to students of all races, ethnic
8 backgrounds, and religions in the Archdiocese of
9 New York and throughout the Nation.

10 (6) John Cardinal O'Connor has provided com-
11 fort and care to the sick, the elderly, and the dis-
12 abled and provided millions of people with spiritual
13 and emotional support. He lead the effort to open
14 New York State's first AIDS-only unit at St.
15 Claire's Hospital, remaining a frequent visitor and
16 volunteer at the hospital.

17 (7) Throughout his life, John Cardinal O'Con-
18 nor has also served on behalf of the poor and the op-
19 pressed, as exemplified by his assistance on behalf of
20 famine victims in Ethiopia and victims in war-torn
21 Bosnia-Herzegovina.

22 (8) Throughout his career, John Cardinal
23 O'Connor has been a strong advocate of interfaith
24 healing and understanding, particularly among indi-
25 viduals of the Catholic and Jewish faiths, and has

1 played a significant role in helping to establish diplo-
2 matic ties between the Vatican and Israel.

3 (9) John Cardinal O'Connor took the inspiring
4 words of the Declaration of Independence—"Life,
5 Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"—and trans-
6 formed them into a statement of purpose. He has
7 dedicated his life's work to protecting and defending
8 these inalienable rights of all people.

9 (10) John Cardinal O'Connor celebrated his
10 80th birthday on January 15, 2000, and has dis-
11 played remarkable courage and the true power of his
12 faith in carrying on his life's work in the face of life-
13 threatening illness.

14 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
16 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold
17 medal of appropriate design to John Cardinal O'Connor,
18 Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplish-
19 ments as a priest, a soldier, and a humanitarian.

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 suitable em-
24 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
25 Secretary.

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

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
3 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
4 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price
5 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, and
7 the cost of the gold medal.

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

9 The medals struck under this Act are national medals
10 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

11 **SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.**

12 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is hereby authorized to
13 be charged against the United States Mint Public Enter-
14 prise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for
15 the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

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

Passed the House of Representatives February 15,
2000.

Attest:

Clerk.