

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1597

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2005

Mr. ENZI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) On July 26, 1805, Constantino Brumidi
6 was born in Rome, Italy of an Italian mother and
7 a Greek father who inspired him with a love of lib-
8 erty.

9 (2) While Constantino Brumidi's Greek ances-
10 try stirred his passion for liberty and citizenship, his
11 Italian heritage provided the art styles of the Ren-

1 aissance and the Baroque which influenced the art-
2 work of the United States Capitol.

3 (3) Constantino Brumidi became a citizen of
4 the United States as soon as he was able, embracing
5 its history, values, and ideals.

6 (4) Beginning in 1855, Constantino Brumidi
7 designed and decorated one House and five Senate
8 committee rooms in the Capitol, as well as the Sen-
9 ate Reception Room, the Office of the Vice Presi-
10 dent, and, most notably, the President's Room,
11 which represents Brumidi's supreme effort "to make
12 beautiful the Capitol" of the United States.

13 (5) In 1865 Constantino Brumidi completed in
14 just 11 months his masterpiece, "The Apotheosis of
15 Washington," in the eye of the Capitol dome.

16 (6) In 1871 Constantino Brumidi created the
17 first tribute to an African American in the Capitol
18 when he placed the figure of Crispus Attucks at the
19 center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre.

20 (7) In 1878 Constantino Brumidi at the age of
21 72 and in poor health, began work on the Rotunda
22 frieze, which chronicles the history of America.

23 (8) On February 19, 1880, Constantino
24 Brumidi died at the age of 74, four and a half

1 months after slipping and nearly falling from a scaf-
2 fold while working on the Rotunda frieze.

3 (9) Constantino Brumidi, proud of his artistic
4 accomplishments and devoted to his adopted coun-
5 try, said, “My one ambition and my daily prayer is
6 that I may live long enough to make beautiful the
7 Capitol of the one country on earth in which there
8 is liberty.”.

9 (10) Constantino Brumidi’s life and work exem-
10 plify the lives of millions of immigrants who came to
11 pursue the American dream.

12 (11) 2005 marks the bicentennial of
13 Constantino Brumidi’s birth.

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

15 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of
18 the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for
19 the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
20 medal of appropriate design in recognition of the
21 contributions of Constantino Brumidi to the Nation.

22 (2) DISPLAY OF MEDAL IN CAPITOL VISITOR
23 CENTER.—The Architect of the Capitol shall arrange
24 for the gold medal presented under this subsection

1 to be displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center as part
2 of an exhibit honoring Constantino Brumidi.

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

9 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
11 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2
12 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at
13 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,
14 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
15 and the cost of the gold medal.

16 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

17 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
18 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
19 of title 31, United States Code.

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

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**2 **SALE.**

3 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
4 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
5 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
7 to this Act.

8 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
9 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
10 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
11 Enterprise Fund.

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