

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3856

To authorize Congress to award a gold medal to Jerry Lewis, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize Congress to award a gold medal to Jerry Lewis, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation.

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 makes the following findings:

5           (1) A native of New Jersey, Jerry Lewis is a  
6       gifted comedian and has been a fixture in the enter-  
7       tainment community for more than 5 decades.

8           (2) Born Joseph Levitch on March 16, 1926, in  
9       Newark, New Jersey, Jerry Lewis began his career  
10       by performing in local nightclubs.

11 (4) Jerry Lewis' talent and enthusiasm kept  
12 America laughing during some of the most turbulent  
13 periods in our history, World War II, the Cold War,  
14 and the assassinations of President John F. Ken-  
15 nedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One of the  
16 most successful performers in show business, Jerry  
17 Lewis has received worldwide acclaim for his unique  
18 ability and style with both comedy and drama. He  
19 has been the star of stage, screen, radio, television,  
20 print, and recordings. He is considered among the  
21 elite in the history of comedy.

22 (5) But aside from his comic persona, Jerry  
23 Lewis has been an active champion for the Muscular  
24 Dystrophy Association (MDA) since the early 1950s.  
25 In 1966, he began the “Jerry Lewis MDA Labor

1 Day Telethon,” an annual television program that  
2 benefits children and adults affected by muscular  
3 dystrophy and related neuromuscular diseases. Now  
4 in its 41st year, the show, which is broadcast on  
5 some 200 stations nationwide, including Puerto  
6 Rico, and worldwide on the Internet, raises tens of  
7 millions of dollars annually.

8 (6) Jerry Lewis summed up why he devotes so  
9 much of his time and energy to this cause with the  
10 words: “I shall pass through this world but once.  
11 Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness  
12 that I can show to any human being let me do it  
13 now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not  
14 pass this way again.”.

15 (7) Jerry Lewis has received numerous awards  
16 for his outstanding service to our Nation. He was  
17 nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his dedica-  
18 tion to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

19 (8) In June of 1978, the communications in-  
20 dustry honored Jerry Lewis with the National Asso-  
21 ciation of Television Program Executives Award of  
22 the Year for his humanitarian efforts in raising  
23 funds to combat neuromuscular diseases. Among his  
24 numerous awards are induction into the French Le-  
25 gion of Honor as “Legion Commander,” the Mur-

1 ray-Green Award for Community Service, the high-  
2 est honor that the AFL-CIO bestows upon an indi-  
3 vidual, the American Medical Association Lifetime  
4 Achievement Award, and the Governor's Award  
5 (Emmy) from the Academy of Television Arts and  
6 Sciences.

7 (9) In September of 1976, the United States  
8 Senate unanimously adopted a resolution expressing  
9 their appreciation of his philanthropic endeavors and  
10 in particular his fight to find a cure for muscular  
11 dystrophy. In February 2001, Jerry Lewis led a del-  
12 egation of MDA scientists and clients to testify be-  
13 fore a subcommittee of the United States Senate re-  
14 sulting in the introduction and subsequent passage  
15 of the MD-Care Act (Public Law 107-84; 115 Stat.  
16 823), a first step toward securing a dramatic boost  
17 in Federal funding for research into all forms of  
18 muscular dystrophy.

19 (10) Joining the ranks of distinguished Con-  
20 gressional Gold Medal recipients would be a fitting  
21 accolade to this consummate entertainer, world-re-  
22 nowned humanitarian and "living legend" who has  
23 served for some 5 decades as National Chairman of  
24 the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

**1 SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President  
3 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House  
4 of Representatives are authorized to make appropriate ar-  
5 rangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress,  
6 of a gold medal of appropriate design to Jerry Lewis, in  
7 recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation.

8 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the  
9 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
10 of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
11 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
12 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
13 retary.

**14 SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

15 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
16 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
17 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 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. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

25 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
26 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

1 struck pursuant to this Act shall be considered numis-  
2 matic items.

3 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**

4 **OF SALE.**

5 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
6 are authorized to be charged against the United States  
7 Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such sums as may be nec-  
8 essary to pay for the cost of the medals struck pursuant  
9 to this Act.

10 (b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the  
11 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be  
12 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
13 Fund.

