

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 360

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2013

Received

AN ACT

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where these 4 little Black girls' ultimate sacrifice served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

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 The Congress Finds the following:

5 (1) September 15, 2013, will mark 50 years
6 since the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair,
7 Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were sud-
8 denly taken by a bomb planted in the Sixteenth
9 Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

10 (2) The senseless and premature death of these
11 4 little Black girls sparked “The Movement that
12 Changed the World”.

13 (3) On that tragic Sunday in September of
14 1963, the world took notice of the violence inflicted
15 in the struggle for equal rights.

16 (4) The fact that 4 innocent children lost their
17 lives as they prepared for Sunday School shook the
18 world’s conscience.

19 (5) This tragedy galvanized the Civil Rights
20 Movement and sparked a surge of momentum that
21 helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of
22 1964 and later the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by
23 President Lyndon B. Johnson.

24 (6) Justice was delayed for these 4 little Black
25 girls and their families until 2002, 39 years after

1 the bombing, when the last of the 4 Klansmen re-
2 sponsible for the bombing was charged and convicted
3 of the crime.

4 (7) The 4 little Black girls are emblematic of
5 so many who have lost their lives for the cause of
6 freedom and equality, including Virgil Ware and
7 James Johnny Robinson who were children also
8 killed within hours of the 1963 church bombing.

9 (8) The legacy that these 4 little Black girls left
10 will live on in the minds and hearts of us all for gen-
11 erations to come.

12 (9) Their extraordinary sacrifice sparked real
13 and lasting change as Congress began to aggres-
14 sively pass legislation that ensured equality.

15 (10) Sixteenth Street Baptist Church remains a
16 powerful symbol of the movement for civil and
17 human rights and will host the 50th anniversary
18 ceremony on Sunday, September 15, 2013.

19 (11) It is befitting that Congress bestow the
20 highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold
21 Medal, in 2013 to the 4 little Black girls, Addie Mae
22 Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cyn-
23 thia Wesley, posthumously in recognition of the 50th
24 commemoration of the historical significance of the
25 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

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

2 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
3 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
4 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
5 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold
6 medal of appropriate design to commemorate the lives of
7 Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and
8 Cynthia Wesley.

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

15 (c) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the award of the
16 gold medal described in subsection (a), the medal shall be
17 given to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Bir-
18 mingham, AL, where it shall be available for display or
19 temporary loan to be displayed elsewhere, as appropriate.

20 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

21 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
22 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price
23 sufficient to cover the costs of the medal, including labor,
24 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,
25 and amounts received from the sale of such duplicates

1 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enter-
2 prise Fund.

3 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
8 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
9 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
10 items.

Passed the House of Representatives April 24, 2013.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.