

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4902

AN ACT

To award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Byron Nelson Congres-
3 sional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Byron Nelson was a top player in the sport
7 of golf during the World War II era and his accom-
8 plishments as a player, a teacher, and commentator
9 are renowned.

10 (2) Byron Nelson won 54 career victories, in-
11 cluding a record 11 in a row in 1945, during his
12 short 13-year career.

13 (3) Byron Nelson won 5 majors, including 2
14 Masters (1937 and 1942), two Professional Golf As-
15 sociation (PGA) Championships (1940 and 1945)
16 and the U.S. Open (1939).

17 (4) Sports journalist Bill Nichols recently
18 ranked the greatest seasons on the PGA tour for
19 The Dallas Morning News and picked Roanoke,
20 Texas-resident Byron Nelson’s 1945 tour as the
21 greatest season of golf in American history.

22 (5) In 1945, Byron Nelson accumulated 18
23 total victories, 11 of which were consecutive, while
24 averaging 68.33 strokes per round for 30 tour-
25 naments.

1 (6) At the Seattle Open in 1945, Byron Nelson
2 shot a record 62 for 18 holes and the world record
3 259, 29 shots under par for 72 holes.

4 (7) Byron Nelson is one of only two golfers to
5 be named “Male Athlete of the Year” twice by the
6 Associated Press: in 1944, when he won 7 tour-
7 naments and averaged 69.67 strokes for 85 rounds,
8 and again after his 1945 season.

9 (8) The World Golf Hall of Fame honored
10 Byron Nelson in 2004 by featuring an exhibit enti-
11 tled “Byron Nelson: A Champion . . . A Gen-
12 tleman”.

13 (9) Byron Nelson was selected for the Ryder
14 Cup 4 times—in 1937, 1939, 1947 and 1965, and
15 on that last occasion he led the United States Ryder
16 Cup team as team captain to victory over Great
17 Britain.

18 (10) Byron Nelson was also a pioneer in the
19 golf business, helping to develop the golf shoes and
20 umbrellas used today.

21 (11) In 1966, True Temper created the “Iron
22 Byron” robot to replicate Byron Nelson’s swing in
23 order to test the company’s equipment, but the robot
24 was eventually used for club and ball testing by the

1 United States Golf Association (USGA) and many
2 other manufacturing companies.

3 (12) Byron Nelson mentored many golf hope-
4 fuls, including 1964 Player of the Year Ken Venturi
5 and 6-time PGA Player of the Year Tom Watson.

6 (13) Byron Nelson was one of the first golf an-
7 alysts on network television where his understanding
8 of the game in general, and the golf swing in par-
9 ticular, was demonstrably profound.

10 (14) Byron Nelson received the United States
11 Golf Association's Bob Jones Award for distin-
12 guished sportsmanship in golf in 1974.

13 (15) In 1974, the Golf Writers Association of
14 America presented Byron Nelson with the Richard-
15 son Award for consistently outstanding contributions
16 to golf.

17 (16) Since 1983, the Byron and Louise Nelson
18 Golf Endowment Fund has provided over
19 \$1,500,000 in endowment funds to Abilene Christian
20 University in Abilene, Texas.

21 (17) Byron Nelson received the PGA Distin-
22 guished Service Award in 1993. This award is pre-
23 sented to an individual who has helped perpetuate
24 the ideals and values of the PGA.

1 (18) Byron Nelson has served as an honorary
2 chairperson for the Metroport Meals on Wheels since
3 1992.

4 (19) In 1994, the Golf Course Superintendents
5 Association of America presented Byron Nelson with
6 the Old Tom Morris Award for outstanding con-
7 tributions to the game.

8 (20) Byron Nelson helped to develop the Tour-
9 nament Players Course (TPC) Four Seasons at Los
10 Colinas, Texas, site of the EDS Byron Nelson
11 Championship and the Byron Nelson Golf School,
12 into a world-class facility.

13 (21) The EDS Byron Nelson Championship is
14 the only PGA tour event named in honor of a pro-
15 fessional golfer and traditionally attracts the strong-
16 est players in the sport.

17 (22) Since its inception, the EDS Byron Nelson
18 Championship has raised \$88,000,000 for Salesman-
19 ship Club Youth and Family Centers, a nonprofit
20 agency that provides education and mental health
21 services for more than 2,700 children and their fam-
22 ilies in the greater Dallas area.

23 (23) In 2002, Byron Nelson received the pres-
24 tigious Donald Ross Award from the American Soci-
25 ety of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) for his sig-

1 nificant contribution to the game of golf and the
2 profession of golf course architecture.

3 (24) The United States Golf Association pre-
4 sented Byron Nelson the Ike Grainger Award for
5 volunteer service to the game of golf in 2002.

6 (25) In 2002, the National Golf Foundation
7 presented Byron Nelson with the Graffis Award for
8 outstanding lifelong contributions to the game of
9 golf.

10 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

11 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
12 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
13 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
14 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
15 medal of appropriate design to Byron Nelson in recogni-
16 tion of his significant contributions to the game of golf
17 as a player, a teacher, and a commentator.

18 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
19 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
20 of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the
21 “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable em-
22 blems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the
23 Secretary.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

8 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
10 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
11 51 of title 31, United States Code.

12 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
13 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
14 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

15 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
16 **SALE.**

17 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
18 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
19 Public Enterprise Fund, such amounts as may be nec-
20 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant
21 to this Act.

22 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
23 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

- 1 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives May 9, 2006.

Attest:

Clerk.

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