

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9505

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Bonnie Eloise Rush Milam in recognition of her distinguished service to the United States Armed Forces through the Melody Maids and her lifelong contributions to patriotism, music education, and the leadership development of young women in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2026

Mr. BABIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Bonnie Eloise Rush Milam in recognition of her distinguished service to the United States Armed Forces through the Melody Maids and her lifelong contributions to patriotism, music education, and the leadership development of young women in the United States.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bonnie Eloise Rush
5 Milam Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Bonnie Eloise Rush Milam, born in 1908 in
4 Anahuac, Texas, was a music educator who founded
5 the Melody Maids, an all-girls singing group, in
6 Beaumont, Texas, in 1942 during World War II.

7 (2) The Melody Maids began with a perform-
8 ance at a war bond rally and quickly expanded to
9 support United States military morale, performing
10 at bases, hospitals, and veterans' events across the
11 United States and overseas, including four tours to
12 Europe and the United Kingdom, seven tours to
13 Nordic countries such as Greenland and Iceland,
14 seven tours to Hawaii, three tours to Asia, five tours
15 to Mexico, and tours to four locations in the Carib-
16 bean.

17 (3) Under the leadership of Mrs. Milam, the
18 Melody Maids provided entertainment and comfort
19 to service members during World War II, the Ko-
20 rean War, and the Vietnam War, earning recogni-
21 tion as the most requested performers under the De-
22 partment of Defense Entertainment Branch after
23 1956.

24 (4) Mrs. Milam instilled in approximately 1,500
25 young women who served as Melody Maids the val-
26 ues of “morals, manners, and music”, emphasizing

1 professionalism, discipline, and service through a
2 code of conduct known as the Melody Maid “Bible”.

3 (5) In addition to military support, Mrs. Milam
4 composed Song Saga of Spindletop in 1951 to com-
5 memorate the 50th anniversary of the Lucas Gush-
6 er, celebrating Texas oil heritage, which was per-
7 formed nationally.

8 (6) The contributions of Mrs. Milam were rec-
9 ognized with the American Legion Distinguished
10 Service Award (1961), designation as the first fe-
11 male Honorary Texas Ranger, and the Daughters of
12 the American Revolution Medal of Honor (1981).

13 (7) The legacy of Mrs. Milam and the Melody
14 Maids continues through the Melody Maid Founda-
15 tion scholarship at Lamar University and preserved
16 memorabilia at the Tyrrell Historical Library in
17 Beaumont, Texas.

18 (8) Mrs. Milam passed away on October 3,
19 2008, at the age of 100.

20 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

21 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
22 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
23 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
24 for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Con-
25 gress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemo-

1 ration of Bonnie Eloise Rush Milam, in recognition of her
2 distinguished service to the United States Armed Forces
3 through the Melody Maids and her lifelong contributions
4 to patriotism, music education, and the leadership develop-
5 ment of young women in the United States.

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

12 (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—Following the presen-
13 tation of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold
14 medal shall be given to the Tyrrell Historical Library in
15 Beaumont, Texas, where the medal shall be available for
16 display as appropriate and made available for research.

17 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

2 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
3 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
4 51 of title 31, United States Code.

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
6 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
7 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
8 items.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
10 **SALE.**

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

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under this Act
18 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public En-
19 terprise Fund.

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