

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1932

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## AN ACT

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the Nation, and the global community.

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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 “Father Theodore M.  
5 Hesburgh Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds that—

8            (1) Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., has  
9        made outstanding and enduring contributions to  
10        American society through his activities in civil  
11        rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the  
12        Nation, and the global community;

13            (2) Father Hesburgh was a charter member of  
14        the United States Commission on Civil Rights from  
15        its creation in 1957 and served as chairperson of the  
16        Commission from 1969 to 1972;

17            (3) Father Hesburgh was president of the Uni-  
18        versity of Notre Dame from 1952 until 1987, and  
19        has been president emeritus since 1987;

20            (4) Father Hesburgh is a national and inter-  
21        national leader in higher education;

22            (5) Father Hesburgh has been honored with the  
23        Elizabeth Ann Seton Award from the National  
24        Catholic Education Association and with more than  
25        130 honorary degrees;

1           (6) Father Hesburgh served as co-chairperson  
2 of the nationally influential Knight Commission on  
3 Intercollegiate Athletics and as chairperson, from  
4 1994 to 1996, of the Board of Overseers of Harvard  
5 University;

6           (7) Father Hesburgh served under President  
7 Ford as a member of the Presidential Clemency  
8 Board, charged with deciding the fates of persons  
9 committing offenses during the Vietnam conflict;

10           (8) Father Hesburgh served as chairman of the  
11 board of the Overseas Development Council and in  
12 that capacity led fundraising efforts that averted  
13 mass starvation in Cambodia in 1979 and 1980;

14           (9) Father Hesburgh served from 1979 to 1981  
15 as chairperson of the Select Commission on Immi-  
16 gration and Refugee Policy, which made rec-  
17 ommendations that served as the basis of congres-  
18 sional reform legislation enacted 5 years later;

19           (10) Father Hesburgh served as ambassador to  
20 the 1979 United Nations Conference on Science and  
21 Technology for Development; and

22           (11) Father Hesburgh has served the Catholic  
23 Church in a variety of capacities, including his serv-  
24 ice from 1956 to 1970 as the permanent Vatican  
25 representative to the International Atomic Energy

1 Agency in Vienna and his service as a member of  
2 the Holy See's delegation to the United Nations.

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

4 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
5 authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold  
6 medal of appropriate design to Father Theodore M.  
7 Hesburgh in recognition of his outstanding and enduring  
8 contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic  
9 Church, the Nation, and the global community.

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

16 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

2       The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national  
3 medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
4 States Code.

5 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**  
6                                   **OF SALE.**

7       (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8 authorized to be charged against the Numismatic Public  
9 Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay  
10 for the cost of the medal authorized by this Act.

11       (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
12 sales of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be  
13 deposited in the Numismatic Public Enterprise Fund.

      Passed the House of Representatives October 12,  
1999.

Attest:

*Clerk.*