

Public Law 110–209
110th Congress

An Act

To award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

May 6, 2008
[H.R. 4286]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

31 USC 5111
note.

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Aung San Suu Kyi was born on June 19, 1945, in Rangoon, Burma, to Aung San, commander of the Burma Independence Army, and Ma Khin Kyi.

(2) On August 15, 1988, Ms. Suu Kyi, in her first political action, sent an open letter to the military controlled government asking for free, open, and multi-party elections.

(3) On September 24, 1988, the National League for Democracy (NLD) was formed, with Ms. Suu Kyi as the general-secretary, and it was, and remains, dedicated to a policy of non-violence and civil disobedience.

(4) Ms. Suu Kyi was subsequently placed under house arrest, where she remained for the next 6 years—without being charged or put on trial—and has been imprisoned twice more; she currently remains under house arrest.

(5) Despite her detention, the National League for Democracy won an open election with an overwhelming 82 percent of the vote—which the military junta nullified.

(6) While under house arrest, she has bravely refused offers to leave the country to continue to promote freedom and democracy in Burma.

(7) For her efforts on behalf of the Burmese people, she has been awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1990, the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2000, and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991.

(8) Ms. Suu Kyi continues to fight on behalf of the Burmese people, even donating her \$1.3 million from her Nobel Prize to establish a health and education fund for Burma.

(9) She is the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize recipient, spending more than 12 of the past 17 years under house arrest.

(10) Despite an assassination attempt against her life, her prolonged illegal imprisonment, the constant public vilification of her character, and her inability to see her children or to see her husband before his death, Ms. Suu Kyi remains committed to peaceful dialogue with her captors, Burma's military

regime, and Burma's ethnic nationalities towards bringing democracy, human rights, and national reconciliation to Burma.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) **PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.**—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

(b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

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

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) **NATIONAL MEDALS.**—The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this Act.

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

Approved May 6, 2008.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4286:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 153 (2007): Dec. 17, considered and passed House.

Vol. 154 (2008): Apr. 24, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 44 (2008):

May 6, Presidential remarks.