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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Rogers Nelson, in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American culture.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. OMAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Rogers Nelson, in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American culture.

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Prince Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that:

(1) Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 7, 1958, the son of jazz singer Mattie Della (née Shaw) and pianist and songwriter John Louis Nelson. Widely regarded as one of the greatest musicians of his generation, his innovative music incorporated elements of rock, R&B, funk, hip-hop, new wave, synth-pop, and jazz.

(2) Prince released 39 albums during his life and produced countless others, along with many unreleased projects left in a vault at his home.

(3) Recognized as a musical prodigy from an early age, Prince signed a recording contract with Warner Brothers Records at the age of 19, writing, producing, arranging, and playing all 27 instruments on the recording.

(4) His 1984 album, “Purple Rain”, spent six consecutive months as the number 1 record on the Billboard 200 charts, spawning five top 10 hits, including “When Doves Cry” and the title track. The movie of the same name won him the Academy Award for “Best Original Song Score”. In 2019, the film Purple Rain was added by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant”.

(5) His 1987 double album “Sign o’ the Times” includes more than 80 minutes of music almost entirely composed and performed by Prince and would go on to be his most acclaimed record, being voted as 1987’s best album in the Pazz & Jop Critics’ Poll. In 2017, the album was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

(6) A prolific composer, Prince wrote many songs made famous by other musicians, including “Nothing Compares 2 U”, “Manic Monday”, and “I Feel For You”.

(7) An advocate for artistic freedom and expression, Prince changed his name to the following symbol (also known as the “Prince Symbol”) to protest the terms of his recording contract and the recording industry’s treatment of all artists, and publicly advocated for artists to be able to maintain ownership of their own master recordings:



(8) A lifelong Minnesota resident, Prince was a participant and supporter of the local Minneapolis arts community, memorialized in songs like “Uptown”.

(9) Though he did not speak publicly of his charity work during his life, Prince was an animal rights activist and philanthropist.

(10) Prince sold more than 150 million records worldwide, ranking him among the best selling artists of all time.

(11) He won seven Grammy Awards, seven Brit Awards, six American Music Awards, four MTV Video Music Awards, an Academy Award (for “Best Original Song Score” for the film Purple Rain), and a Golden Globe Award. In 2004, Prince was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the UK Music Hall of Fame in 2006, and the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame in 2016. He received the BET Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. He was posthumously

honored with a doctor of humane letters by the University of Minnesota in 2016. Two of his albums, “Purple Rain” (1984) and “Sign o’ the Times” (1987), received the Grammy Award for “Album of the Year” nominations. At the 28th Grammy Awards, Prince was awarded the President’s Merit Award. Prince was also honored with the American Music Award for Achievement and American Music Award of Merit at the American Music Awards of 1990 and American Music Awards of 1995 respectively. At the 2013 Billboard Music Awards, he was honored with the Billboard Icon Award.

(12) Prince transcended this earthly plane on April 21, in his Minnesota home at age 57, leaving behind a legacy of musical achievement and an indelible mark on Minnesota and American culture.

### **SEC. 3. 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 posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration of Prince, in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American culture.

(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.

(c) **SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of Prince under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display, particularly at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, or for loan as appropriate so that it may be displayed elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the life of Prince.

#### **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3 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.

#### **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under 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.

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