

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and vital service to the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and vital service to 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 “Buffalo Soldiers Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 1866, Congress passed the Act entitled
2 “An Act to increase and fix the military peace estab-
3 lishment of the United States”, approved July 28,
4 1866 (14 Stat. 332; chapter 299), which authorized
5 the creation of 6 all-Black cavalry and infantry regi-
6 ments. These regiments remained active until the
7 Army was desegregated in 1951.

8 (2) According to legend, American Indians
9 called the Black cavalry troops “Buffalo Soldiers”
10 because of their dark, curly hair, which resembled a
11 buffalo’s coat.

12 (3) The African-American troops accepted the
13 name with pride and honor, as they were aware of
14 the fierce bravery and fighting spirit of the buffalo.

15 (4) The original 6 regiments melded into the
16 following 4 regiments:

17 (A) The 9th Cavalry Regiment assembled
18 in New Orleans, Louisiana, in August and Sep-
19 tember of 1866. They were ordered to San An-
20 tonio, Texas, in April 1867, with the mission to
21 maintain order and to secure the road from San
22 Antonio to El Paso.

23 (B) The 10th Cavalry Regiment gathered
24 in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, during the sum-
25 mer of 1867. In August 1867, they were or-

1 dered to Fort Riley, Kansas, with the mission
2 of protecting the Pacific Railroad.

3 (C) The 24th Infantry Regiment was orga-
4 nized in 1869, forming from the 38th and 41st
5 Colored Infantry Regiments. They served
6 throughout the Western United States, with the
7 mission to protect frontier posts and secure
8 roadways.

9 (D) The 25th Infantry Regiment assem-
10 bled at Camp William Penn, Pennsylvania, be-
11 ginning in January 1864. They were assigned
12 to numerous districts within the Department of
13 the Gulf with the mission to maintain security.

14 (5) Buffalo Soldiers also assisted in the protec-
15 tion of National Parks. They helped fight wildfires
16 and poachers in the Yosemite and Sequoia National
17 Parks and served as park rangers in the Sierra Ne-
18 vada.

19 (6) In the Spanish-American War, all 4 regi-
20 ments played key roles and fought with distinction,
21 despite facing severe discrimination from the locals.

22 (7) At the start of World War I, the Buffalo
23 Soldier regiments were dispatched to locations
24 throughout central United States and into the Pa-

1 cific, offering logistics and support behind the front
2 lines in the American Expeditionary Forces.

3 (8) During World War II, African-American
4 soldiers and units continued to serve proudly under
5 the name “Buffalo Soldier”, including the 92nd In-
6 fantry Division, which was the only Black division
7 that saw combat in Europe.

8 (9) In the Korean War, Buffalo Soldier regi-
9 ments fought throughout the Korean peninsula,
10 from the defense of the “Pusan Perimeter” to the
11 counteroffensives which resulted in the end of armed
12 hostilities and the creation of the Demilitarized
13 Zone.

14 (10) Buffalo Soldiers had the lowest military
15 desertion and court-martial rates of their time. In
16 recognition of combat valor and their actions beyond
17 the call of duty, many were awarded the Congres-
18 sional Medal of Honor.

19 (11) On November 15, 2024, the Reverend
20 Robert W. Dixon Sr., the last known living member
21 of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, passed away
22 at the age of 103.

23 (12) The Congressional Gold Medal would be
24 an appropriate way to shed further light on the serv-
25 ice of the Buffalo Soldiers and the instrumental role

1 they played in instilling an approach to inclusivity
2 within our military and the way of life in the United
3 States.

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

5 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
7 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
8 award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appro-
9 priate design to the Buffalo Soldier regiments, authorized
10 by Congress in 1866 to serve in the United States Armed
11 Forces, in recognition of their superior, dedicated, and
12 vital service to the United States.

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

18 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
20 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
21 shall be given to the National Museum of African
22 American History and Culture of the Smithsonian
23 Institution, where it shall be displayed as appro-
24 priate and made available for research.

1 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
2 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
3 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
4 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other
5 locations and events associated with the Buffalo Sol-
6 diers.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
9 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at
10 a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including
11 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead ex-
12 penses.

13 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

14 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
15 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
16 31, United States Code.

17 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
18 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
19 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
20 items.

21 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
22 **SALE.**

23 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
24 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
25 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-

1 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
2 this Act.

3 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
4 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
5 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
6 Enterprise Fund.