

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey 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 “Miracle on Ice Con-
5 gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States Olympic Men’s Ice Hock-
9 ey Team competed at the 1980 Winter Olympics, of-
10 ficially the XIII Olympic Winter Games and known
11 as the 1980 Lake Placid games, from February 13
12 to 24, 1980, in Lake Placid, New York.

13 (2) Team USA, comprised of collegiate players,
14 defeated the defending Olympic champion the Soviet
15 Union 4–3 on February 22, 1980, in the final round
16 of the 1980 Winter Olympics men’s ice hockey tour-
17 nament.

18 (3) The 1980 United States Olympic Men’s Ice
19 Hockey Team roster included—

20 (A) Bill Baker (Grand Rapids, Minnesota);

21 (B) Neal Broten (Roseau, Minnesota);

22 (C) Dave Christian (Warroad, Minnesota);

23 (D) Steve Christoff (Richfield, Minnesota);

24 (E) Jim Craig (North Easton, Massachu-
25 setts);

1 (F) Mike Eruzione (Winthrop, Massachu-
2 setts);

3 (G) John Harrington (Virginia, Min-
4 nesota);

5 (H) Steve Janaszak (Saint Paul, Min-
6 nesota);

7 (I) Mark Johnson (Madison, Wisconsin);

8 (J) Rob McClanahan (Saint Paul, Min-
9 nesota);

10 (K) Ken Morrow (Flint, Michigan);

11 (L) Jack O'Callahan (Charlestown, Massa-
12 chusetts);

13 (M) Mark Pavelich (Eveleth, Minnesota);

14 (N) Mike Ramsey (Minneapolis, Min-
15 nesota);

16 (O) Buzz Schneider (Grand Rapids, Min-
17 nesota);

18 (P) Dave Silk (Scituate, Massachusetts);

19 (Q) Eric Strobel (Rochester, Minnesota);

20 (R) Bob Suter (Madison, Wisconsin);

21 (S) Mark Wells (St. Clair Shores, Michi-
22 gan); and

23 (T) Phil Verchota (Duluth, Minnesota).

24 (4) The "Miracle on Ice" United States and So-
25 viet Union final round game aired on tape delay on

1 Feb 22, 1980, from Lake Placid and drew
2 34,200,000 average viewers. The match is remem-
3 bered as a “miracle” as collegiate ice hockey players
4 defied expectations in defeating a Soviet team that
5 won 4 consecutive gold medals dating back to 1964.

6 (5) Team USA defeated Finland 4–1 in its
7 final game to win the gold medal, its first gold
8 medal since 1960 in men’s ice hockey.

9 (6) Herb Brooks, the last player cut from the
10 1960 United States Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey
11 Team that won gold at Squaw Valley, guided the
12 1980 team to its historic gold medal. Known as a
13 motivator, Brooks molded a team built around hard
14 work, belief in oneself, and belief in teammates. He
15 reminded his team when they played the Soviets,
16 “you were born to be hockey players, everyone one
17 of you . . . and you were meant to be here”.

18 (7) The tournament occurred at a time when
19 the United States was struggling with rampant stag-
20 flation, high gas prices, hostages held in Iran, and
21 increased tensions with the Soviet Union whose inva-
22 sion of Afghanistan led to the boycott of the 1980
23 Summer Olympics.

24 (8) The Miracle on Ice was a turning point for
25 ice hockey in the United States. The game was

1 named the greatest sports moment of the 20th cen-
2 tury by Sports Illustrated.

3 (9) The historic win brought ice hockey to the
4 front-page of newspapers everywhere, and forever
5 opened the door to the National Hockey League for
6 players born in the United States. The impact of the
7 event was far-reaching and is still being felt today.

8 (10) Since 1980, interest in the United States
9 in the sport of ice hockey has increased exponen-
10 tially. Registrations with USA Hockey have in-
11 creased by nearly 400 percent since 1980 from
12 136,000 to over 564,000, and the number of Na-
13 tional Hockey League players from the United
14 States has increased from 72 in 1980 to 245 in
15 2024.

16 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.**

17 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
18 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
19 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
20 award, on behalf of Congress, of 3 gold medals of appro-
21 priate design to the members of the 1980 United States
22 Olympic Men’s Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their
23 extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter
24 Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate play-
25 ers, they defeated the dominant Soviet hockey team in the

1 historic “Miracle on Ice”, revitalizing morale in the United
2 States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring genera-
3 tions, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the
4 United States.

5 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
6 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
7 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
8 strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and in-
9 scriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

10 (c) DISPOSITION OF MEDALS.—Following the award
11 of the gold medals under subsection (a)—

12 (1) one gold medal shall be given to the Lake
13 Placid Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York,
14 where it shall be displayed and made available for
15 research, as appropriate;

16 (2) one gold medal shall be given to the United
17 States Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth,
18 Minnesota, where it shall be displayed and made
19 available for research, as appropriate; and

20 (3) one gold medal shall be given to the United
21 States Olympic & Paralympic Museum in Colorado
22 Springs, Colorado, where it shall be displayed and
23 made available for research, as appropriate.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
3 bronze of the gold medals struck under section 3, at a
4 price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor,
5 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

6 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

7 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this
8 Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title
9 31, United States Code.

10 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
11 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
12 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
13 items.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
15 **SALE.**

16 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
17 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
18 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
19 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
20 this Act.

21 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
22 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
23 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
24 Enterprise Fund.