

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 474

AN ACT

To award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis
DeBakey, M.D.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D., was born on
4 September 7, 1908, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to
5 Shaker and Raheeja DeBakey.

6 (2) Dr. DeBakey, at the age of 23 and still a
7 medical student, reported a major invention, a roller
8 pump for blood transfusions, which later became a
9 major component of the heart-lung machine used in
10 the first successful open-heart operation.

11 (3) Even though Dr. DeBakey had already
12 achieved a national reputation as an authority on
13 vascular disease and had a promising career as a
14 surgeon and teacher, he volunteered for military
15 service during World War II, joining the Surgeon
16 General's staff and rising to the rank of Colonel and
17 Chief of the Surgical Consultants Division.

18 (4) As a result of this first-hand knowledge of
19 military service, Dr. DeBakey made numerous rec-
20 ommendations for the proper staged management of
21 war wounds, which led to the development of mobile
22 army surgical hospitals or "MASH" units, and
23 earned Dr. DeBakey the Legion of Merit in 1945.

24 (5) After the war, Dr. DeBakey proposed the
25 systematic medical follow-up of veterans and rec-
26 ommended the creation of specialized medical cen-

1 ters in different areas of the United States to treat
2 wounded military personnel returning from war, and
3 from this recommendation evolved the Veterans Af-
4 fairs Medical Center System and the establishment
5 of the Commission on Veterans Medical Problems of
6 the National Research Council.

7 (6) In 1948, Dr. DeBakey joined the Baylor
8 University College of Medicine, where he developed
9 the first surgical residency program in the city of
10 Houston, and today, guided by Dr. DeBakey's vi-
11 sion, the College is one of the most respected health
12 science centers in the Nation.

13 (7) In 1953, Dr. DeBakey performed the first
14 successful procedures to treat patients who suffered
15 aneurysms leading to severe strokes, and he later de-
16 veloped a series of innovative surgical techniques for
17 the treatment of aneurysms enabling thousands of
18 lives to be saved in the years ahead.

19 (8) In 1964, Dr. DeBakey triggered the most
20 explosive era in modern cardiac surgery, when he
21 performed the first successful coronary bypass, once
22 again paving the way for surgeons worldwide to offer
23 hope to thousands of patients who might otherwise
24 succumb to heart disease.

1 (9) Two years later, Dr. DeBakey made med-
2 ical history again, when he was the first to success-
3 fully use a partial artificial heart to solve the prob-
4 lems of a patient who could not be weaned from a
5 heart-lung machine following open-heart surgery.

6 (10) In 1968, Dr. DeBakey supervised the first
7 successful multi-organ transplant, in which a heart,
8 both kidneys, and lung were transplanted from a
9 single donor into 4 separate recipients.

10 (11) In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson
11 appointed Dr. DeBakey to the position of Chairman
12 of the President's Commission on Heart Disease,
13 Cancer and Stroke, leading to the creation of Re-
14 gional Medical Programs established "to encourage
15 and assist in the establishment of regional coopera-
16 tive arrangements among medical schools, research
17 institutions, and hospitals, for research and train-
18 ing".

19 (12) In the mid-1960s, Dr. DeBakey pioneered
20 the field of telemedicine with the first demonstration
21 of open-heart surgery to be transmitted overseas by
22 satellite.

23 (13) In 1969, Dr. DeBakey was elected the
24 first President of Baylor College of Medicine.

1 (14) In 1969, President Lyndon B. Johnson be-
2 stowed on Dr. DeBakey the Presidential Medal of
3 Freedom with Distinction, and in 1985, President
4 Ronald Reagan conferred on him the National Medal
5 of Science.

6 (15) Working with NASA engineers, he refined
7 existing technology to create the DeBakey Ventric-
8 ular Assist Device, one-tenth the size of current
9 versions, which may eliminate the need for heart
10 transplantation in some patients.

11 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
13 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem-
14 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
15 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold
16 medal of appropriate design, to Michael Ellis DeBakey,
17 M.D., in recognition of his many outstanding contribu-
18 tions to the Nation.

19 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the
20 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
21 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
22 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
23 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

8 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-
10 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter
11 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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

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

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

23 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
24 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section

- 1 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
- 2 Enterprise Fund.

Passed the Senate March 27, 2007.

Attest:

Secretary.

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