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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R.

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To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Norman Yoshio Mineta in recognition of his courageous, principled dedication to public service, civic engagement, and civil rights.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HONDA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Norman Yoshio Mineta in recognition of his courageous, principled dedication to public service, civic engagement, and civil rights.

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 “Norman Yoshio Mineta  
5 Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Norman Yoshio Mineta was born November  
2           12, 1931, in San Jose, California to immigrant par-  
3           ents, Kunisaku and Kane Mineta, from Shizouka  
4           prefecture in Japan.

5           (2) In 1942, Mineta and his family were fore-  
6           ibly relocated to the Heart Mountain Relocation  
7           Center in Wyoming. They were among 120,000 peo-  
8           ple of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were  
9           natural-born United States citizens, sent to intern-  
10          ment camps by the United States Government dur-  
11          ing the Second World War.

12          (3) After graduating from the University of  
13          California at Berkeley, Mineta served as an intel-  
14          ligence officer for the United States Army in Korea  
15          and Japan from 1953 to 1956. Mineta then joined  
16          his father's insurance business located in San Jose's  
17          Japantown.

18          (4) In 1966, Mineta accepted an appointment  
19          to the San Jose Housing Authority, believing com-  
20          munity involvement to be essential to civic life and  
21          the full integration of Japanese Americans into his  
22          hometown. He became a City Councilmember one  
23          year later.

24          (5) Mineta was elected Mayor of San Jose in  
25          1971, becoming the first Asian American mayor of

1 a major American city in the continental United  
2 States. As Mayor, he worked to economically develop  
3 San Jose as “Silicon Valley” was forming, and also  
4 strengthened community relations by engaging racial  
5 and ethnic minorities through San Jose City depart-  
6 ments and agencies, including the San Jose Police  
7 Department.

8 (6) From 1975 to 1995, Mineta served as a  
9 Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, rep-  
10 resenting the heart of Santa Clara County and Sil-  
11 icon Valley. He served on numerous committees, in-  
12 cluding the Budget, Intelligence, and Science com-  
13 mittees. He served longest on the House Public  
14 Works and Transportation Committee, now known  
15 as the Transportation and Infrastructure Com-  
16 mittee, including as Committee Chairman.

17 (7) In 1978, Mineta, along with Representative  
18 Frank Horton (R-NY), introduced a bipartisan joint  
19 resolution authorizing and requesting the President  
20 to proclaim the 7-day period beginning on May 4,  
21 1979, as “Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week”.  
22 May is the month when the first Japanese immi-  
23 grants arrived in the United States in 1843, and  
24 also when Chinese laborers completed the trans-  
25 continental railroad in 1869. The resolution became

1 public law that year, and was later expanded to rec-  
2 ognize the month of May as Asian Pacific American  
3 Heritage Month.

4 (8) In 1987, Mineta had the honor of signing  
5 the Civil Liberties Act which offered an official apol-  
6 ogy and redress for the grave injustices committed  
7 against Americans of Japanese ancestry during  
8 World War II, on behalf of the House of Represent-  
9 atives when acting as Speaker Pro Tempore. In a  
10 culmination of a 10-year bipartisan effort, President  
11 Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law as Public  
12 Law 100–383 on August 10, 1988.

13 (9) Throughout his tenure in the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives, Mineta was a strong advocate for  
15 transportation laws which made air travel safer and  
16 aviation and transit systems more accessible to  
17 Americans with disabilities. He also authored the  
18 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of  
19 1991, which gave State, local, and regional govern-  
20 ments greater control over the use of Federal dollars  
21 in their communities.

22 (10) Mineta co-founded the Congressional Asian  
23 Pacific American Caucus and the Asian Pacific  
24 American Institute for Congressional Studies in  
25 1994, which today continue to promote the well-

1 being and full participation of these communities in  
2 American civic life.

3 (11) In 2000, Mineta became the first Asian  
4 American to serve in a Presidential Cabinet as the  
5 Secretary of Commerce under President William J.  
6 Clinton.

7 (12) In 2001, Mineta continued his dedication  
8 to public service and bipartisanship by serving as  
9 Secretary of Transportation under President George  
10 W. Bush.

11 (13) Mineta was at the helm of the Department  
12 of Transportation on the day of the September 11,  
13 2001, terrorist attacks. In the aftermath of the at-  
14 tacks and through the end of his tenure as Secretary  
15 of Transportation, he ushered in critical reforms to  
16 the Nation's transportation and security screening  
17 networks.

18 (14) In 2001, the San Jose City Council an-  
19 nounced that the City's airport was to be renamed  
20 the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Air-  
21 port.

22 (15) Mineta received the Presidential Medal of  
23 Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United  
24 States, in 2006 from President George W. Bush,  
25 and the Grand Cordon, Order of the Rising Sun,

1 from the Government of Japan, which is the highest  
2 honor bestowed upon an individual outside of Japan.

3 (16) Having personally experienced the wrong-  
4 ful indignity of internment as a child by his own  
5 government, Norman Yoshio Mineta has dedicated  
6 his life to public service, to his community, and to  
7 his country, and has done so with exemplary dignity  
8 and integrity.

9 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

10 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
11 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
12 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
13 for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
14 medal of appropriate design to Norman Yoshio Mineta,  
15 in recognition of his courageous, principled dedication to  
16 public service, civic engagement, and civil rights.

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

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

1 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
2 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
3 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
4 and the cost of the gold medal.

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

6 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck pursu-  
7 ant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter  
8 51 of title 31, United States Code.

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