



Awarding the
Congressional Gold
Medal
to the Buffalo Soldiers
It Is Time!



The black pilots of the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007. The black marines of Montford Point received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011. In 2022, the all-black female unit, 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

However, the black soldiers, known as the “Buffalo Soldiers,” have yet to receive the nation’s highest civilian honor.

However, legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Buffalo Soldier has been introduced in recent congressional sessions, starting 2020 up until last year. It is time the current bill, H.R. 1222 – Buffalo Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023, receive the needed number of co-sponsors, be brought up for a vote, passed, and moved to the Senate for their approval.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals or institutions awarded by the United States Congress. Since it was first awarded to George Washington in 1776, the Congressional Gold Medal has been awarded to soldiers, inventors, actors, musicians, writers, public servants, and athletes.

Bestowing Congress’ highest expression of national achievement to the Buffalo Soldiers honors their sacrifices made during major conflicts including Western expansion, Spanish-American War, Philippines War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War as well as their role in protecting our national parks.

Last year was the 75th Anniversary of President Truman's Executive Order 8891 to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces. It took 82 years, from July 28, 1866 to July 26, 1948 for the efforts for equality and acceptance to take hold. Also there have been major corrective actions taken to right the wrongs done to some Buffalo Soldiers suffered during “Jim Crow.” It would be a great highlight to the significance, to the Desegregation Executive Order and other recent corrective actions, that the Congressional Gold Medal be awarded to the “*Buffalo Soldiers.*”

One of the goals of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter in this endeavor, is to have the entire Arizona Congressional Delegation to co-sponsor H.R.1222, so it can be approved in the U.S. House and sent to the U.S. Senate for final approval.

Legislative Background

This legislation was originally introduced in the House on 28 Feb 2020 (H.R. 6022- 116th Congress) by Rep Anthony Brown (D) of Maryland.

[Buffalo Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020 \(2020; 116th Congress H.R. 6022\) - GovTrack.us](#)

On 26 Feb 2021 (H.R. 1399 - 117th Congress) by Rep Brown again.

[BILLS-117hr1399ih.pdf \(congress.gov\)](#)

Last year, on 27 Feb, H.R. 1222, sponsored by Rep Marilyn Strickland (D) of state of Washington introduced the bill, with Rep Andy Kim, NJ co-sponsoring.

[Text of H.R. 1222: Buffalo Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023 \(Introduced version\) - GovTrack.us](#)

Co-Sponsor Info

The link below identifies those representatives who have co-sponsored H.R. 1222:

[Details for H.R. 1222: Buffalo Soldiers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023 - GovTrack.us](#)

Please click on the link below to download a letter of support for H.R. 1222, Buffalo Solider Congressional Gold Medal. Please use this letter as a guideline to send to members of the Arizona Congressional delegation.