

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1404

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a “Ghost Army” that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. MARKEY

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ghost Army Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the 23d Headquarters Special Troops (com-
9 prised of the 23d Headquarters and Headquarters
10 Company, Special Troops, the 603d Engineer Cam-

1 ouflage Battalion, the 406th Combat Engineer Com-
2 pany, the 3132d Signal Service Company, and the
3 Signal Company, Special, 23d Headquarters, Special
4 Troops) and the 3133d Signal Service Company
5 were units of the United States Army that served in
6 Europe during World War II;

7 (2) the 23d Headquarters Special Troops was
8 actively engaged in battlefield operations from June
9 of 1944 through March of 1945;

10 (3) the 3133d Signal Service Company was en-
11 gaged in operations in Italy in 1945;

12 (4) the deceptive activities of these units were
13 integral to several Allied victories across Europe and
14 reduced casualties;

15 (5) in evaluating the performance of these units
16 after World War II, an Army analysis found that
17 “Rarely, if ever, has there been a group of such a
18 few men which had so great an influence on the out-
19 come of a major military campaign.”;

20 (6) many Ghost Army soldiers were citizen-sol-
21 diers recruited from art schools, advertising agen-
22 cies, communications companies, and other creative
23 and technical professions;

24 (7) the first 4 members of the 23d Head-
25 quarters Special Troops landed on D-Day and 2 be-

1 came casualties while creating false beach landing
2 sites;

3 (8) a detachment of Army radio operators
4 under the command of Lieutenant Fred Fox joined
5 the invasion fleet for a planned deception, Operation
6 Troutfly, which was cancelled;

7 (9) Lieutenant Fox's men and their radios were
8 instead attached to the 82d Airborne, which had lost
9 95 percent of its radio equipment, providing critical
10 communications as the 82d Airborne fought its way
11 inland;

12 (10) the secret deception operations of the 23d
13 Headquarters Special Troops commenced in France
14 on June 14, 1944, when Task Force Mason, a 16-
15 man detachment of the 23d led by First Lieutenant
16 Bernard Mason, arrived in Normandy;

17 (11) Lieutenant Mason and his men set up
18 dummy artillery to draw enemy fire and protect the
19 980th Field Artillery Battalion (VIII Corps) as part
20 of the Normandy Campaign;

21 (12) the rest of the soldiers of the 23d Head-
22 quarters Special Troops arrived in France in July
23 and August of 1944;

24 (13) full-scale deception efforts began with Op-
25 eration Elephant from July 1 to 4, 1944, in which

1 the 23d Headquarters Special Troops covered the
2 movement of the 2d Armored Division when it left
3 a reserve position to go into the line between the
4 First United States and Second British Armies;

5 (14) Operation Elephant was the first of the 21
6 full-scale tactical deceptions completed by the 23d
7 Headquarters Special Troops;

8 (15) often operating on or near the front lines,
9 the 23d Headquarters Special Troops used inflatable
10 tanks, artillery, airplanes and other vehicles, ad-
11 vanced engineered soundtracks, and skillfully crafted
12 radio trickery to create the illusion of sizable Amer-
13 ican forces where there were none and to draw the
14 enemy away from Allied troops;

15 (16) the 3132d and the 3133d Signal Service
16 Companies, activated in Pine Camp (now Fort
17 Drum), New York, at the Army Experimental Sta-
18 tion in March and June of 1944, respectively, were
19 the only “sonic deception” ground combat units of
20 the United States in World War II;

21 (17) soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special
22 Troops impersonated other, larger Army units by
23 sewing counterfeit patches onto their uniforms,
24 painting false markings on their vehicles, and cre-
25 ating phony headquarters staffed by fake generals,

1 all in an effort to feed false information to Axis
2 spies;

3 (18) during the Battle of the Bulge, the 23d
4 Headquarters Special Troops created counterfeit
5 radio traffic in an effort to deceive the enemy of the
6 movement of elements of General George S. Patton's
7 Third Army as it shifted to break through to the
8 101st Airborne Division and elements of 10th Ar-
9 mored Division in the besieged Belgian town of Bas-
10 togne;

11 (19) in its final mission, Operation Viersen, in
12 March 1945, the 23d Headquarters Special Troops
13 conducted a tactical deception operation intended to
14 draw German units down the Rhine River and away
15 from the Ninth Army, allowing the Ninth Army to
16 cross the Rhine into Germany;

17 (20) during Operation Viersen, the 23d Head-
18 quarters Special Troops, with the assistance of other
19 units, impersonated 2 complete divisions of Amer-
20 ican forces by using fabricated radio networks,
21 soundtracks of construction work and artillery fire,
22 and hundreds of inflatable and real vehicles;

23 (21) according to a military intelligence officer
24 of the 79th Infantry, "There is no doubt that Oper-
25 ation Viersen materially assisted in deceiving the

1 enemy with regard to the real dispositions and inten-
2 tions of this Army.”;

3 (22) 3 soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special
4 Troops gave their lives and dozens were injured in
5 carrying out their mission;

6 (23) in April 1945, the 3133d Signal Service
7 Company conducted Operation Craftsman in support
8 of Operation Second Wind, the successful Allied ef-
9 fort to break through the German defensive position
10 to the north of Florence, Italy, known as the Gothic
11 Line;

12 (24) along with an attached platoon of British
13 engineers, who were inflatable decoy specialists, the
14 3133d Signal Service Company used sonic deception
15 to misrepresent troop locations along this defensive
16 line;

17 (25) the activities of the 23d Headquarters
18 Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Com-
19 pany remained highly classified for more than 40
20 years after the war and received minimal recogni-
21 tion;

22 (26) the extraordinary accomplishments of this
23 unit are deserving of belated official recognition; and

24 (27) the United States is eternally grateful to
25 the soldiers of the 23d Headquarters Special Troops

1 and the 3133d Signal Service Company for their
2 proficient use of innovative tactics during World
3 War II, which saved lives and made significant con-
4 tributions to the defeat of the Axis powers.

5 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

6 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tem-
7 pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the
9 award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appro-
10 priate design to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and
11 the 3133d Signal Services Company, known collectively as
12 the “Ghost Army”, in recognition of unique and highly
13 distinguished service during World War II.

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

19 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
21 gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal
22 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
23 it shall be available for display as appropriate and
24 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 associated with the 23d Headquarters Spe-
6 cial Troops and the 3133d Signal Services Company.

7 (d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—The Secretary may strike
8 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck
9 under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of
10 the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-
11 ery, and overhead expenses.

12 **SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDAL.**

13 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The medals struck under
14 this Act are national medals for the purposes of chapter
15 51 of title 31, Unites States Code.

16 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section
17 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
18 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

19 **SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
20 **SALE.**

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

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

5 **SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

6 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purposes
7 of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of
8 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest state-
9 ment titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation”
10 for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional
11 Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee,
12 provided that such statement has been submitted prior to
13 the vote on passage.