

EDWARD R. ROYCE, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

AMY PORTER
CHIEF OF STAFF

THOMAS SHEEHY
STAFF DIRECTOR



ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

JASON STEINBAUM
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

July 7, 2014

H.R. 3544 Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Congressional Gold Medal Act

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in co-sponsoring H.R. 3544, legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the veterans of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency, for their exceptional and indispensable service against Nazi Germany and the Axis nations during World War II.

General William Donovan, the legendary founder of the OSS, said that the organization's personnel "performed some of the bravest acts of the war," while collecting and analyzing intelligence, undermining enemy capabilities, waging a propaganda war, organizing and leading anti-Nazi resistance groups in Europe, and providing military training for anti-Axis movements in Asia. OSS operatives were also responsible for training German and Austrian agents, who included German and Jewish refugees, for covert missions inside Nazi Germany.

The OSS was America's first effort to implement a centralized system of strategic intelligence during WWII, and provided the basis for the modern-day American intelligence and special operations communities, including the CIA, Navy SEALs, U.S. Army Special Forces, Air Force Special Operations Command, and the Marines Special Operations Command. The efforts of the OSS played a crucial role in the allied victory in WWII, including rescuing more than 500 down allied airmen behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia, and conducting mercy missions at the end of the war to save thousands of allied POWs, who were likely to be killed by the Imperial Japanese soldiers. The OSS also invented new technologies, communications equipment and weapons that continue to aid America's armed forces and intelligence community today.

Members of the OSS include United States Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., American icon Julia Child,

professional baseball player Moe Berg, the first African-American to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, Ralph Bunche, and four future Directors of Central Intelligence.

It is time for the extraordinary members of the OSS to be collectively recognized for their tremendous achievements in the global defense of freedom during one of the most dangerous times in world history.

Please join this effort to honor these men and women by co-sponsoring H.R. 3544. To co-sponsor, or request additional information, please contact Jason Isakovic at 202-225-6405, or Jason.Isakovic@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



EDWARD R. ROYCE
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



BUCK MCKEON
Chairman
Armed Services Committee



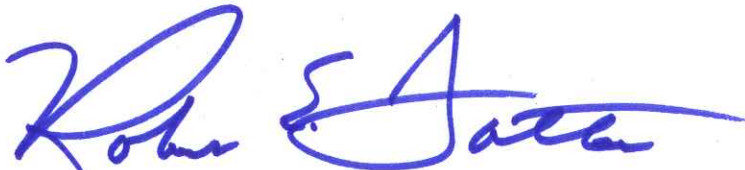
ADAM SMITH
Ranking Member
Armed Services Committee



MIKE ROGERS
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence



C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence



ROBERT E. LATTA
Member of Congress