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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

HVC-304, THE CAPITOL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4121

DAMON NELSON  
STAFF DIRECTOR

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MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 12, 2016

Dear Colleague,

Please join us in co-sponsoring H.R. 3929, the Office of Strategic Services Congressional Gold Medal Act, to award and thank a patriotic cadre of brave Americans who served their country by providing critical intelligence during World War II. They are the forerunners of the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Special Forces, and they deserve recognition for their immeasurable contributions during World War II.

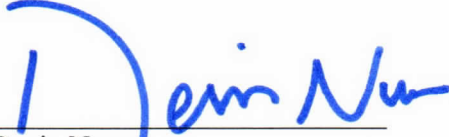
Roughly six months after the Pearl Harbor attack brought the United States into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to serve as the central coordinating office for United States intelligence operations. President Roosevelt appointed William “Wild Bill” Donovan, a former U.S. Attorney, assistant to the Attorney General, World War I veteran, and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, to lead the OSS after he convinced the President of the importance of information gathering and unorthodox warfare.

During World War II, the OSS organized worldwide intelligence-gathering operations, coordinated air drops and guerrilla actions behind enemy lines, devised psychological warfare operations against Axis nations, rescued downed airmen in Axis-controlled territory, and assembled analytical teams to probe enemy weaknesses. It eventually comprised nearly 13,000 men and women, with more than half serving overseas.

The OSS made critical contributions to the war effort, including the provision of information to facilitate Operation TORCH – the Allied landing in North Africa – as well as the D-Day landings in Normandy. Although the OSS was disbanded at the end of the war, President Truman recognized the need for post-war intelligence gathering, leading to the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947.

H.R. 3929 will award the Congressional Gold Medal to OSS personnel. Please join us in bestowing this honor on the courageous, patriotic Americans who served in the Office of Strategic Services and, as pioneers of modern intelligence, helped vanquish some of the most malevolent enemies our country—and the free world—has ever faced.

Sincerely,

  
Devin Nunes  
Chairman

  
Adam Schiff  
Ranking Member