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Gold Medal Ceremony for American Fighter Aces

WASHINGTON, DC - On Wednesday, May 20 leaders of the U.S. House and Senate will present a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of the American Fighter Aces' heroic service to the United States throughout the history of aviation warfare.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will take part in the bipartisan, bicameral ceremony.

Dating back to World War I with the first use of aviation warfare, an American Fighter Ace is any fighter pilot whose tremendous skill and valor resulted in the destruction of five or more enemy aircraft. Of more than 60,000 United States military fighter pilots that have taken to the air, fewer than 1,500 have become known as American Fighter Aces.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor the United States Congress can bestow. Pursuant to H.R. 685, a single gold medal has been struck to honor their distinguished service. For more information on how a Congressional Gold Medal is struck, watch this [behind-the-scenes video](#).

The ceremony will take place May 20, 2015 at 3 p.m. in Emancipation Hall and will be live streamed at [speaker.gov/live](#).



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