

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2519

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2017

Mr. WALZ (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BACON, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. COLE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGRO, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAST, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NOEM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. POLIS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALDEN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. ZELDIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “The American Legion
5 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) on March 15, 1919, The American Legion
9 was founded in Paris, France, by members of the
10 American Expeditionary Force occupying Europe
11 after World War I and concerned about the welfare
12 of their comrades and communities upon their re-
13 turn to the United States;

14 (2) on September 16, 1919, Congress chartered
15 The American Legion, which quickly grew to become
16 the largest veterans service organization in the
17 United States;

18 (3) The American Legion conferences in Wash-
19 ington, DC, in 1923 and 1924 crafted the first
20 United States Flag Code, which was adopted in
21 schools, States, cities and counties prior to being en-

1 acted in 1942, establishing the proper use, display,
2 and respect for the colors of the United States;

3 (4) during World War II, The American Legion
4 developed and presented to Congress its case for
5 vastly improved support for medically discharged,
6 disabled veterans, which ultimately became the Serv-
7 icemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284;
8 chapter 268), better known as the G.I. Bill of
9 Rights, and was drafted by former American Legion
10 National Commander Harry W. Colmery in Wash-
11 ington's Mayflower Hotel;

12 (5) through the leadership and advocacy of The
13 American Legion, the G.I. Bill was enacted in June
14 1944, which led to monumental changes in United
15 States society, including the democratization of high-
16 er education, home ownership for average people in
17 the United States, better VA hospitals, business and
18 farm loans for veterans, and the ability to appeal
19 conditions of military discharge;

20 (6) defying those who argued the G.I. Bill
21 would break the Treasury, according to various re-
22 searchers, the G.I. Bill provided a tremendous re-
23 turn on investment of \$7 to the United States econ-
24 omy for every \$1 spent on the program, triggering
25 a half-century of prosperity in the United States;

1 (7) after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, The Amer-
2 ican Legion established the National Emergency
3 Fund to provide immediate cash relief for veterans
4 who have been affected by natural disasters;

5 (8) American Legion National Emergency Fund
6 grants after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005,
7 for instance, exceeded \$1,700,000;

8 (9) The American Legion fought to see the Vet-
9 erans Administration elevated to Cabinet-level status
10 as the Department of Veterans Affairs, ensuring
11 support for veterans would be set at the highest level
12 of the Federal Government, as a priority issue for
13 the President;

14 (10) after a decades-long struggle to improve
15 the adjudication process for veterans disputing
16 claims decisions, The American Legion helped shape
17 and introduce the Veterans Reassurance Act to cre-
18 ate a venue for judicial review of veterans' appeals;

19 (11) building on these efforts, legislation was
20 passed in 1988 to create the United States Court of
21 Veterans Appeals, today known as the United States
22 Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;

23 (12) The American Legion created the Amer-
24 ican Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of mili-

1 tary members killed on active duty on or after Sep-
2 tember 11, 2001;

3 (13) in 2016, The American Legion’s National
4 Executive Committee amended the original scholar-
5 ship criteria to include children of veterans with 50
6 percent or greater VA disability ratings;

7 (14) President George W. Bush signed into law
8 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act
9 (title V of the Supplemental Appropriations Act,
10 2008; 122 Stat. 2357), a next-generation G.I. Bill
11 strongly supported by The American Legion and the
12 most comprehensive educational benefits package
13 since the original G.I. Bill of Rights was enacted in
14 1944;

15 (15) in August 2018, The American Legion will
16 begin its centennial recognition at the 100th Na-
17 tional Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the
18 site of the first American Legion National Conven-
19 tion; and

20 (16) in March 2019, the organization will cele-
21 brate its 100th birthday in Paris, France, and Sep-
22 tember 16, 2019, will mark the 100th anniversary of
23 The American Legion’s Federal charter.

1 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

2 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration
3 of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, the
4 Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred
5 to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following
6 coins:

7 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5
8 coins, which shall—

9 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

10 (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

11 (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

12 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000
13 \$1 coins, which shall—

14 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

15 (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

16 (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

17 (3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more
18 than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

19 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

20 (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

21 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-
22 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title
23 31, United States Code.

24 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
25 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
26 title 31, United States Code.

1 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
2 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
3 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
4 matic items.

5 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The design for the coins minted
7 under this Act shall be emblematic of The American Le-
8 gion.

9 (b) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each
10 coin minted under this Act there shall be—

11 (1) a designation of the denomination of the
12 coin;

13 (2) an inscription of the year “2019”; and

14 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
15 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
16 “E Pluribus Unum”.

17 (c) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
18 under this Act shall be—

19 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
20 with—

21 (A) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

22 (B) the Adjutant of The American Legion,
23 as defined in the constitution and bylaws of
24 The American Legion; and

1 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative
2 Coin Advisory Committee.

3 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

4 (a) **QUALITY OF COINS.**—Coins minted under this
5 Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

6 (b) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may
7 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
8 period beginning on January 1, 2019.

9 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

10 (a) **SALE PRICE.**—The coins issued under this Act
11 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price based upon the
12 sum of—

13 (1) the face value of the coins;

14 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with
15 respect to such coins; and

16 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
17 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
18 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

19 (b) **BULK SALES.**—The Secretary shall make bulk
20 sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable
21 discount.

22 (c) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—

23 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall accept
24 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act
25 before the issuance of such coins.

1 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
2 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
3 sonable discount.

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under
6 this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

7 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

8 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin
9 described under section 3(a)(2).

10 (3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half-dol-
11 lar coin.

12 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
13 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
14 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
15 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to The American
16 Legion for costs related to—

17 (1) promoting the importance of and caring for
18 those who have served in uniform, ensuring they re-
19 ceive proper health care and disability benefits
20 earned through military service;

21 (2) promoting the importance of, and caring
22 for, those who are still serving in the Armed Forces;

23 (3) promoting the importance of maintaining
24 the patriotic values, morals, culture, and citizenship
25 of the United States; and

1 (4) promoting the importance of maintaining
2 strong families, assistance for at-risk children, and
3 activities that promote their healthy and wholesome
4 development.

5 (c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no
6 surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
7 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
8 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
9 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
10 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual com-
11 memorative coin program issuance limitation under sec-
12 tion 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in ef-
13 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
14 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
15 this subsection.

16 (d) GAO AUDIT.—The recipient described under sub-
17 section (b) shall be subject to the audit requirements of
18 section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with
19 regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

20 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

21 The Secretary shall take such actions as may be nec-
22 essary to ensure that—

23 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
24 will not result in any net cost to the United States
25 Government; and

1 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
2 are disbursed to the recipient designated in section
3 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of
4 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,
5 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses,
6 marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United
7 States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m)
8 and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

○