

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3109

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration  
of Celia Cruz.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

Mr. WELLER (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

---

## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins  
in commemoration of Celia Cruz.

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 “Celia Cruz Commemo-  
5       rative Coin Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress hereby finds as follows:

1           (1) Celia Cruz began singing in amateur con-  
2           tests in her hometown of Havana, Cuba, at the age  
3           of 14.

4           (2) During this period Cruz studied music the-  
5           ory, piano and voice at Cuba's National Music Con-  
6           servatory.

7           (3) During the 1950's, Cruz became an accom-  
8           plished music talent and recording artist in Cuba  
9           and beyond the island's shores.

10          (4) On July 15, 1960, Cruz, her husband, and  
11          the members of her band fled Cuba for the United  
12          States to escape the oppressive regime of Fidel Cas-  
13          tro.

14          (5) Cruz and her husband worked and lived in  
15          the United States and became naturalized American  
16          citizens.

17          (6) Cruz' successful career in the entertainment  
18          industry spanned over 5 decades and she is widely  
19          known around the globe as "The Queen of Salsa".

20          (7) Cruz recorded over 70 records during her  
21          career, earning multiple Grammy Awards and a Bill-  
22          board Magazine Lifetime Achievement Award in  
23          1995.

1           (8) Cruz has also won numerous Latin Grammy  
2 Awards and other music industry recognitions that  
3 include a myriad of platinum albums.

4           (9) Cruz has been honored with a Lifetime  
5 Achievement Award by the Smithsonian Institution  
6 and, in 1994, President Clinton presented Cruz with  
7 the National Medal of the Arts, the United States  
8 highest tribute in the arts community.

9           (10) Celia Cruz was a champion of freedom and  
10 artistic expression who dedicated herself to helping  
11 others.

12           (11) During the summer of 2002, a foundation  
13 was established in her name, the Celia Cruz Founda-  
14 tion, helping to realize her dream of providing finan-  
15 cial aid to low-income students who wish to study  
16 music and to assist cancer victims.

17           (12) Celia Cruz, whose music, energy, and hap-  
18 piness made her a role model for generations of  
19 Americans and inspired audiences around the world,  
20 died on July 16, 2003 in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

21           (13) In 2008, the world will mark the 5th anni-  
22 versary of her death and it will be an appropriate  
23 time to remember her achievements and lasting mu-  
24 sical works and charitable legacy.

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

2 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the  
3 achievements and lasting musical works and charitable  
4 legacy of Celia Cruz, the Secretary of the Treasury (here-  
5 inafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall  
6 mint and issue the following coins:

7 (1) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 300,000  
8 \$1 coins which shall—

9 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

11 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
12 cent copper.

13 (2) HALF DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more  
14 than 500,000 half dollar coins which shall—

15 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

17 (C) be minted to the specifications for half  
18 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title  
19 31, United States Code.

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

23 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
24 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
25 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

2 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
4 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of Celia  
5 Cruz and her lasting legacy.

6 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
7 each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

8 (A) a designation of the value of the coin;

9 (B) an inscription of the year “2008”; and

10 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
11 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
12 ica”, “E Pluribus Unum”, and “The Queen of  
13 Salsa”.

14 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
15 under this Act shall be—

16 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
17 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Celia  
18 Cruz Foundation; and

19 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
20 Committee.

21 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

24 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United  
25 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality  
26 of the coins minted under this Act.

1       (c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary  
2 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January  
3 1, 2008.

4       (d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No  
5 coins may be minted under this Act after December 31,  
6 2008.

7 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

8       (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act  
9 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum  
10 of—

11               (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

20       (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

21               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept  
22 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act  
23 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           (d) MARKETING.—The Secretary, in cooperation with  
5       the Celia Cruz Foundation, shall develop and implement  
6       a marketing program to promote and sell the coins issued  
7       under this Act both within the United States and inter-  
8       nationally.

9       **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

12           (1) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

13           (2) \$3 per coin for the half dollar coin.

14       (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
15       title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
16       the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
17       shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Celia Cruz  
18       Foundation, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to offering  
19       financial aid to under-privileged students who wish to  
20       study music as well as funding efforts in the fight against  
21       cancer, for the purpose of supporting the programs of the  
22       Foundation.

23       (c) AUDITS.—The Celia Cruz Foundation shall be  
24       subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of

- 1 title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts
- 2 received by the Foundation under subsection (b).

