

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 589

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration  
of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. LEACH (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BACA, Mr. BALLANCE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BELL, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORD, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MAJETTE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mrs. NORTHUP, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REGULA, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WAMP, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WYNN) 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 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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 “Dr. Martin Luther  
5 King, Jr., Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress hereby finds as follows:

8           (1) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., dedicated his  
9       life to securing the Nation’s fundamental principles  
10      of liberty and justice for all its citizens.

11          (2) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the lead-  
12      ing civil rights advocate of his time, spearheading  
13      the civil rights movement in the United States dur-  
14      ing the 1950’s and 1960’s.

15          (3) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the key-  
16      note speaker at the August, 28, 1963, March on  
17      Washington, the largest rally of the civil rights  
18      movement, during which, from the steps of the Lin-  
19      coln Memorial and before a crowd of over 200,000  
20      people, he delivered his famous “I Have A Dream”  
21      speech, one of the classic orations in American his-  
22      tory.

1           (4) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a cham-  
2           pion of nonviolence, fervently advocated nonviolent  
3           resistance as the strategy to end segregation and ra-  
4           cial discrimination in America, and was awarded the  
5           1964 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his ef-  
6           forts.

7           (5) All Americans should commemorate the leg-  
8           acy of Martin Luther King, Jr., so “that one day  
9           this Nation will rise up and live out the true mean-  
10          ing of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evi-  
11          dent; that all men are created equal.’”.

12          (6) Efforts are underway to secure the personal  
13          papers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for the Li-  
14          brary of Congress so that they may be preserved and  
15          studied for generations to come.

16 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

17          (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
18          ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)  
19          shall mint and issue the following coins:

20                  (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5  
21          coins, which shall—

22                          (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

24                          (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent

25          alloy.

1           (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 350,000  
2 \$1 coins, which shall—

3           (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

5           (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
6 cent copper.

7           (3) HALF DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more  
8 than 5,000,000 half dollar coins which shall—

9           (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

11          (C) be minted to the specifications for half  
12 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title  
13 31, United States Code.

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

17          (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
18 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
19 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
20 matic items.

21 **SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.**

22          (a) GOLD.—The Secretary shall obtain gold for mint-  
23 ing coins under this Act pursuant to the authority of the  
24 Secretary under other provisions of law.

1 (b) SILVER.—The Secretary shall obtain silver for  
2 minting coins under this Act from any available source,  
3 including from stockpiles established under the Strategic  
4 and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

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

6 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
8 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the in-  
9 spirational life and works of Dr. Martin Luther  
10 King, Jr.

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

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

14 (B) an inscription of the year “2003”; and

15 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
16 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
17 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

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

20 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
21 with the Commission of Fine Arts; and

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

1 **SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

7 (c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary  
8 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning August  
9 28, 2003.

10 (d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No  
11 coins may be minted under this Act after December 31,  
12 2003.

13 **SEC. 7. SALE OF COINS.**

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

17 (1) the face value of the coins;

18 (2) the surcharge provided in section 8(a) with  
19 respect to such coins; and

20 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
21 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
22 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

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

26 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

7           (d) MARKETING.—The Secretary, in cooperation with  
8           the Legacy Fund of the Library of Congress, shall develop  
9           and implement a marketing program to promote and sell  
10          the coins issued under this Act both within the United  
11          States and internationally.

12       **SEC. 8. SURCHARGES.**

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

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

16               (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

17               (3) A surcharge of \$3 per coin for the half dol-  
18          lar coin.

19          (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
20          title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
21          the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
22          shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Dr. Martin  
23          Luther King, Jr., Legacy Fund of the Library of Congress  
24          to be used for the objects and purposes of such Fund.

1           (c) AUDITS.—The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leg-  
2    acy Fund shall be subject to the audit requirements of  
3    section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with  
4    regard to the amounts received by the Fund under sub-  
5    section (b).

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