

## Calendar No. 885

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION**H. R. 6455**

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 16, 2008

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

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**AN ACT**

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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 “NASA 50th Anniver-  
5 sary Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
9 istration began operation on October 1, 1958, with

1 about 8,000 employees and an annual budget of  
2 \$100,000,000;

3 (2) over the next 50 years, the National Aero-  
4 nautics and Space Administration has been involved  
5 in many defining events which have shaped the  
6 course of human history and demonstrated to the  
7 world the character of the people of the United  
8 States;

9 (3) among the many firsts by the National Aer-  
10 onautics and Space Administration are that—

11 (A) on December 6, 1958, the United  
12 States launched Pioneer 3, the first United  
13 States satellite to ascend to an altitude of  
14 63,580 miles;

15 (B) on March 3, 1959, the United States  
16 sent Pioneer 4 to the Moon, successfully mak-  
17 ing the first United States lunar flyby;

18 (C) on April 1, 1960, the United States  
19 launched TIROS 1, the first successful mete-  
20 orological satellite, observing Earth's weather;

21 (D) on May 5, 1961, Freedom 7, carrying  
22 Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr., was the first  
23 American space flight involving human beings;

24 (E) on February 20, 1962, John Glenn be-  
25 came the first American to circle the Earth,

1 making 3 orbits in his Friendship 7 Mercury  
2 spacecraft;

3 (F) on December 14, 1962, Mariner 2 be-  
4 came the first spacecraft to commit a successful  
5 planetary flyby (Venus);

6 (G) on April 6, 1965, the United States  
7 launched Intelsat I (also known as Early Bird  
8 1), the first commercial satellite (communica-  
9 tions), into geostationary orbit;

10 (H) on June 3 through 7, 1965, the sec-  
11 ond piloted Gemini mission, Gemini IV, stayed  
12 aloft for 4 days, and astronaut Edward H.  
13 White II performed the first EVA or  
14 “spacewalk” by an American;

15 (I) on June 2, 1966, Surveyor 1 became  
16 the first American spacecraft to soft-land on  
17 the Moon;

18 (J) on May 31, 1971, the United States  
19 launched Mariner 9, the first mission to orbit  
20 another planet (Mars) beginning November 13,  
21 1971;

22 (K) on April 12, 1981, the National Aero-  
23 nautics and Space Administration launched the  
24 Space Shuttle Columbia on the first flight of  
25 the Space Transportation System (STS-1);

1 (L) on June 18, 1983, the National Aero-  
2 nautics and Space Administration launched  
3 Space Shuttle Challenger (STS-7) carrying 3  
4 mission specialists, including Sally K. Ride, the  
5 first woman astronaut;

6 (M) in another historic mission, 2 months  
7 later, the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
8 ministration launched STS-8 carrying the first  
9 black American astronaut, Guion S. Bluford;  
10 and

11 (N) on July 23, 1999, the Space Shuttle  
12 Columbia's 26th flight was led by Air Force  
13 Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to com-  
14 mand a Shuttle mission;

15 (4) on April 9, 1959, the National Aeronautics  
16 and Space Administration unveiled the Mercury as-  
17 tronaut corps, 7 men with "the right stuff": John  
18 H. Glenn, Jr., Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B.  
19 Shepard, Jr., M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Coo-  
20 per, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and Donald K.  
21 "Deke" Slayton;

22 (5) on May 25, 1961, President John F. Ken-  
23 nedy, reflecting the highest aspirations of the Amer-  
24 ican people, proclaimed: "I believe this Nation  
25 should commit itself to achieving the goal, before

1 this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon  
2 and returning him safely to Earth. No single space  
3 project in this period will be more impressive to  
4 mankind, or more important in the long-range explo-  
5 ration of space; and none will be so difficult or ex-  
6 pensive to accomplish.”;

7 (6) on September 19, 1961, the National Aero-  
8 nautics and Space Administration announced that  
9 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
10 center dedicated to human space flight would be  
11 built in Houston, Texas;

12 (7) on February 17, 1973, the Manned Space-  
13 craft Center in Houston was renamed the Lyndon  
14 B. Johnson Space Center;

15 (8) on December 21, 1968, Apollo 8 took off  
16 atop a Saturn V booster from the Kennedy Space  
17 Center for a historic mission to orbit the Moon;

18 (9) as Apollo 8 traveled outward, the crew fo-  
19 cused a portable television camera on Earth and for  
20 the first time humanity saw its home from afar, a  
21 tiny, lovely, and fragile “blue marble” hanging in  
22 the blackness of space;

23 (10) this transmission and viewing of Earth  
24 from a distance was an enormously significant ac-  
25 complishment and united the Nation at a time when

1 American society was in crisis over Vietnam, race re-  
2 lations, urban problems, and a host of other difficul-  
3 ties;

4 (11) on July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts  
5 Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin made the  
6 first lunar landing mission while Michael Collins or-  
7 bited overhead in the Apollo command module;

8 (12) Armstrong set foot on the surface of the  
9 Moon, telling the millions of listeners that it was  
10 “one small step for a man, one giant leap for man-  
11 kind”, and Aldrin soon followed and planted an  
12 American flag, but omitted claiming the land for the  
13 United States, as had routinely been done during  
14 European exploration of the Americas;

15 (13) the 2 Moon walkers left behind an Amer-  
16 ican flag and a plaque bearing the inscription:  
17 “Here Men From The Planet Earth First Set Foot  
18 Upon the Moon. Jul. 1969 A.D. We Came in Peace  
19 for All Mankind.”;

20 (14) on April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Tele-  
21 scope was launched into space aboard the STS-31  
22 mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery, and since  
23 then, the Hubble has revolutionized astronomy, while  
24 expanding our knowledge of the universe and inspir-  
25 ing millions of scientists, students, and members of

1 the public with its unprecedented deep and clear im-  
2 ages of space;

3 (15) on July 4, 1997, the Mars Pathfinder  
4 landed on Mars and on January 29, 1998, an Inter-  
5 national Space Station agreement among 15 coun-  
6 tries met in Washington, DC, to sign agreements to  
7 establish the framework for cooperation among the  
8 partners on the design, development, operation, and  
9 utilization of the Space Station;

10 (16) the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
11 ministration's stunning achievements over the last  
12 50 years have been won for all mankind at great  
13 cost and sacrifice; in the quest to explore the uni-  
14 verse, many National Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
15 istration employees have lost their lives, including  
16 the crews of Apollo 1, the Space Shuttle Challenger,  
17 and the Space Shuttle Columbia;

18 (17) the success of the United States space ex-  
19 ploration program in the 20th Century augurs well  
20 for its continued leadership in the 21st Century,  
21 such leadership being attributable to the remarkable  
22 and indispensable partnership between the National  
23 Aeronautics and Space Administration and its 10  
24 space and research centers, including—

1           (A) from small spacecraft to supercom-  
2           puters, science missions and payloads to ther-  
3           mal protection systems, information technology  
4           to aerospace, the Ames Research Center in  
5           California's Silicon Valley, which provides prod-  
6           ucts, technologies, and services that enable  
7           NASA missions and expand human knowledge;

8           (B) the Dryden Flight Research Center,  
9           the leading center for innovative flight research;

10          (C) the Glenn Research Center, which de-  
11          velops power, propulsion, and communication  
12          technologies for space flight systems and aero-  
13          nautics research;

14          (D) the Goddard Space Flight Center,  
15          which specializes in research to expand knowl-  
16          edge on the Earth and its environment, the  
17          solar system, and the universe through observa-  
18          tions from space;

19          (E) the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the  
20          leading center for robotic exploration of the  
21          Solar System;

22          (F) the Johnson Space Center, which man-  
23          ages the development, testing, production, and  
24          delivery of all United States human spacecraft  
25          and all human spacecraft-related functions;

1           (G) the Kennedy Space Center, the gate-  
2 way to the Universe and world leader in pre-  
3 paring and launching missions around the  
4 Earth and beyond;

5           (H) the Langley Research Center, which  
6 continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and  
7 space research for aerospace, atmospheric  
8 sciences, and technology commercialization to  
9 improve the way the world lives;

10          (I) the Marshall Space Flight Center, a  
11 world leader in developing space transportation  
12 and propulsion systems that accelerate explo-  
13 ration and scientific discovery, including the  
14 Michoud Assembly Facility, which has been a  
15 world-class facility since 1961 for fabrication of  
16 large space structures, including the Saturn V  
17 and the Space Shuttle External Tank, and  
18 which will have a critical role in the Constella-  
19 tion program, including manufacturing major  
20 pieces of the Orion crew capsule, the Ares I  
21 upper stage, and the Ares V core stage; and

22          (J) the Stennis Space Center, which is re-  
23 sponsible for rocket propulsion testing and for  
24 partnering with industry to develop and imple-  
25 ment remote sensing technology;

1           (18) the United States should pay tribute to  
2           the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,  
3           and to its successful partnerships with the space and  
4           research centers, by minting and issuing a com-  
5           memorative silver dollar coin; and

6           (19) the surcharge proceeds from the sale of a  
7           commemorative coin would generate valuable fund-  
8           ing for the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
9           istration Families Assistance Fund, for the purposes  
10          of providing need-based financial assistance to the  
11          families of any National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
12          ministration personnel who lose their lives as a re-  
13          sult of injuries suffered in the performance of their  
14          official duties, and for other worthy and important  
15          purposes.

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

17          (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the  
18          50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aer-  
19          onautics and Space Administration, the Secretary of the  
20          Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
21          retary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

- 22                  (1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000  
23                  \$50 gold coins, which shall—  
24                                  (A) weigh 33.931 grams;

1 (B) have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters;

2 and

3 (C) contain 1 troy ounce of fine gold.

4 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 300,000  
5 \$1 coins of each of the 9 designs specified in section  
6 4(a)(3)(B), which shall—

7 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

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

14 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
15 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
16 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

17 (d) MINTAGE LEVEL LIMIT.—Notwithstanding the  
18 mintage level limit described under section  
19 5112(m)(2)(A)(ii) of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-  
20 retary may mint and issue not more than 300,000 of each  
21 of the 9 \$1 coins authorized to be minted under this Act.

22 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

23 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
25 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 50

1 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of  
2 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

3 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
4 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

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

7 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
8 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
9 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”, and such other  
10 inscriptions as the Secretary may determine to  
11 be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

12 (3) COIN IMAGES.—

13 (A) \$50 COINS.—

14 (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the  
15 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear  
16 an image of the sun.

17 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the  
18 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear  
19 a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the  
20 United States astronauts who lost their  
21 lives in the line of duty over the course of  
22 the space program.

23 (iii) HIGH RELIEF.—The design and  
24 inscriptions on the obverse and reverse of

1 the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall  
2 be in high relief.

3 (B) \$1 COINS.—

4 (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the \$1  
5 coins issued under this Act shall bear 9  
6 different designs, each of which shall con-  
7 sist of an image of 1 of the 9 planets of  
8 the solar system, including Earth.

9 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1  
10 coins issued under this Act shall bear dif-  
11 ferent designs, each of which shall be em-  
12 blematic of the contributions of the re-  
13 search and space centers, subject to the  
14 following requirements:

15 (I) EARTH COIN.—The reverse of  
16 the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
17 which bear an image of the Earth on  
18 the obverse shall bear images emblem-  
19 atic of, and honoring, the discoveries  
20 and missions of the National Aero-  
21 nautics and Space Administration, the  
22 Mercury, Gemini, and Space Shuttle  
23 missions and other manned Earth-or-  
24 biting missions, and the Apollo mis-  
25 sions to the Moon.

1 (II) JUPITER COIN.—The reverse  
2 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
3 which bear an image of the planet Ju-  
4 piter on the obverse shall include a  
5 scientifically accurate depiction of the  
6 Galilean moon Europa and depict  
7 both a past and future mission to Eu-  
8 ropa.

9 (III) SATURN COIN.—The reverse  
10 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
11 which bear an image of the planet  
12 Saturn on the obverse shall include a  
13 scientifically accurate depiction of the  
14 moon Titan and depict both a past  
15 and a future mission to Titan.

16 (IV) PLUTO (AND OTHER DWARF  
17 PLANETS) COIN.—The reverse of the  
18 \$1 coins issued under this Act which  
19 bear an image of the planet Pluto on  
20 the obverse shall include a design that  
21 is emblematic of telescopic exploration  
22 of deep space by the National Aero-  
23 nautics and Space Administration and  
24 the ongoing search for Earth-like  
25 planets orbiting other stars.

1           (4) REALISTIC AND SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE  
2           DEPICTIONS.—The images for the designs of coins  
3           issued under this Act shall be selected on the basis  
4           of the realism and scientific accuracy of the images  
5           and on the extent to which the images are reminis-  
6           cent of the dramatic and beautiful artwork on coins  
7           of the so-called “Golden Age of Coinage” in the  
8           United States, at the beginning of the Twentieth  
9           Century, with the participation of such noted sculp-  
10          tors and medallie artists as James Earle Fraser, Au-  
11          gustus Saint-Gaudens, Victor David Brenner, Ad-  
12          olph A. Weinman, Charles E. Barber, and George T.  
13          Morgan.

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 Administrator of the National Aeronautics  
18                and Space Administration and the Commission of  
19                Fine Arts; and

20                (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory  
21                Committee.

22   **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

23          (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this  
24          Act shall be issued in proof quality only.

1 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United  
2 States Mint may be used to strike any particular combina-  
3 tion of denomination and quality of the coins minted under  
4 this Act.

5 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—Notwithstanding any  
6 other provision of law, including section 7(d), the Sec-  
7 retary—

8 (1) may accept orders for the coins authorized  
9 under this Act during the period beginning on Janu-  
10 ary 1, 2008 and ending on December 31, 2008; and

11 (2) may mint and issue such coins required to  
12 fulfill such orders during the period beginning on  
13 January 1, 2008 and ending on December 31, 2009.

14 (d) EXCEPTION TO PROGRAM LIMITATION.—Not-  
15 withstanding any other provision of law, the minting or  
16 issuance of coins under this Act in 2009 shall not—

17 (1) preclude the Secretary from including a sur-  
18 charge on the issuance of any other commemorative  
19 coin minted or issued in 2009; and

20 (2) be counted against the annual 2 commemo-  
21 rative coin program minting and issuance limitation  
22 under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States  
23 Code.

24 (e) ISSUANCE OF GOLD COINS.—Each gold coin  
25 minted under this Act may be issued only as part of a

1 complete set with 1 of each of the 9 \$1 coins minted under  
2 this Act.

3 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

4 (a) **SALE PRICE.**—The coins issued under this Act  
5 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum  
6 of—

7 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

10 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
11 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
12 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

13 (b) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—

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

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

20 (c) **PRESENTATION.**—In addition to the issuance of  
21 coins under this Act in such other methods of presentation  
22 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the Sec-  
23 retary shall provide, as a sale option, a presentation case  
24 which displays the \$50 gold coin in the center, surrounded  
25 by the \$1 silver coins in elliptical orbits. All such presen-

1 tation cases shall bear a plaque with appropriate inscrip-  
2 tions that include the names and dates of the spacecraft  
3 missions on which United States astronauts lost their lives  
4 over the course of the space program and the names of  
5 such astronauts.

6 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

9 (1) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$50  
10 coin.

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

12 (3) A surcharge of \$1 per coin for any bronze  
13 duplicate minted under section 8.

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 distributed as follows:

18 (1) The first \$4,000,000 available for distribu-  
19 tion under this section, to the NASA Family Assist-  
20 ance Fund, for the purpose of providing need-based  
21 financial assistance to the families of NASA per-  
22 sonnel who lose their lives as a result of injuries suf-  
23 fered in the performance of their official duties.

1           (2) Of amounts available for distribution after  
2 the payment under paragraph (1),  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the next  
3 \$1,000,000 to each of the following:

4           (A) The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Edu-  
5 cational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foun-  
6 dation for the purposes of improving and  
7 strengthening the process of teaching and  
8 learning science, math, and technology at all  
9 educational levels, elementary through college  
10 through the promotion of innovative educational  
11 programs.

12           (B) The Challenger Center for Space  
13 Science Education, for the purposes of creating  
14 positive learning experiences using space science  
15 as a theme that raise student expectations of  
16 success, fostering a long-term interest in mathe-  
17 matics, science, and technology, and motivating  
18 students to pursue careers in these fields.

19           (3) The remainder of the amounts available for  
20 distribution after the payments under paragraphs  
21 (1) and (2), to the Secretary of the Smithsonian In-  
22 stitution for the preservation, maintenance, and dis-  
23 play of space artifacts at the National Air and Space  
24 Museum (including the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Cen-  
25 ter).

1           (c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund,  
2 the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational Science Literacy  
3 Foundation, the Challenger Center for Space Science Edu-  
4 cation, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution  
5 shall be subject to the audit requirements of section  
6 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard  
7 to the amounts received under subsection (b).

8           (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
9 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
10 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
11 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
12 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
13 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2  
14 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under  
15 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in  
16 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-  
17 retary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

18 **SEC. 8. BRONZE DUPLICATES.**

19           The Secretary may strike and sell bronze duplicates  
20 of the \$50 gold coins authorized under this Act, at a price  
21 determined by the Secretary to be appropriate. Such dupli-

1 cates shall not be considered to be United States coins  
2 and shall not be legal tender.

Passed the House of Representatives July 15, 2008.

Attest:                   LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*

By ROBERT F. REEVES,  
*Deputy Clerk.*

Calendar No. 885

110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 6455**

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**AN ACT**

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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Received; read twice and placed on the calendar