

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1683

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration  
of the United States Coast Guard.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COLE, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HARPER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. WELCH, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PALAZZO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. DENT, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. HAHN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LONG, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. WITTMAN) 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 the United States Coast Guard.

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 “United States Coast  
5 Guard Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

8           (1) The United States Coast Guard was found-  
9       ed on August 4, 1790, as the Revenue Cutter Serv-  
10       ice under the United States Department of the  
11       Treasury.

12           (2) Congress created the Coast Guard on Janu-  
13       ary 28, 1915, by merging the Revenue Cutter Serv-  
14       ice and the United States Lifesaving Service, was  
15       moved to the Department of Transportation in  
16       1967, and on February 25, 2003, became part of  
17       the Department of Homeland Security.

18           (3) Although the smallest of the uniformed  
19       services, today the United States Coast Guard con-  
20       ducts a wide variety of missions to protect the pub-  
21       lic, the environment, and the United States economic  
22       and security interests in any maritime region, in-

1 including international waters and America’s coasts,  
2 ports, and inland waterways.

3 (4) Every day, the United States Coast Guard  
4 plays a broad and important role in homeland secu-  
5 rity, law enforcement, search and rescue, marine en-  
6 vironmental pollution response, and the maintenance  
7 of river, intra-coastal and offshore aids to navigation  
8 (ATON).

9 (5) The United States Coast Guard is our Na-  
10 tion’s oldest seagoing military service, staying true  
11 to their motto, Semper Paratus or “Always Ready,”  
12 for 225 years.

13 (6) The United States Coast Guard is sup-  
14 ported by 57,600 Active Duty, Reserve, and Civilian  
15 personnel, who in 2013 responded to 17,000 search  
16 and rescue cases saving 7,400 lives, conducted over  
17 21,000 waterborne patrols of maritime infrastruc-  
18 ture and resources, performed 32,500 maritime se-  
19 curity response activities (including 21,000 water-  
20 borne patrols of critical maritime infrastructure and  
21 resources, 2,000 escorts of high-capacity passenger  
22 vessels, 8,400 security boardings in and around U.S.  
23 ports), removed \$3 billion worth of illegal drugs, pa-  
24 trolled 4.5 million miles of maritime borders for im-  
25 migration enforcement, and maintained 49,000 navi-

1       gation aids ensuring the smooth transit of \$1.8 tril-  
2       lion worth of goods over 25,000 miles of our Na-  
3       tion’s waterways.

4               (7) Section 213 of Public Law 108–293 states  
5       that “The Commandant may establish a National  
6       Coast Guard Museum, on lands which will be feder-  
7       ally owned and administered by the Coast Guard,  
8       and are located in New London, Connecticut, at, or  
9       in close proximity to, the Coast Guard Academy”.

10              (8) The National Coast Guard Museum Asso-  
11       ciation, a nonprofit association dedicated to improve  
12       public understanding of the history, service and mis-  
13       sions of the Coast Guard, is working with the  
14       United States Coast Guard, the City of New Lon-  
15       don, the State of Connecticut, and a range of local,  
16       regional, and national stakeholders to develop, plan  
17       and raise capital for the National Coast Guard Mu-  
18       seum, to be located in New London, Connecticut.

19              (9) The United States Coast Guard is the only  
20       military service without a national museum through  
21       which to share its history and legacy with the Amer-  
22       ican public.

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

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

5 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000  
6 \$5 coins, which shall—

7 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

9 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent  
10 alloy.

11 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000  
12 \$1 coins, which shall—

13 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

15 (C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

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

18 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

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

23 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this  
24 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of  
25 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 COIN.**

6 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
8 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the  
9 traditions, history, and heritage of the United States  
10 Coast Guard, and its role in securing our Nation  
11 since 1790.

12 (2) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
13 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

15 (B) an inscription of the year “2018”; and

16 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,

17 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-

18 ica”, “E Pluribus Unum”, and “Semper

19 Paratus”.

20 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
21 under this Act shall—

22 (1) contain motifs that specifically honor the

23 United States Coastguardsman of both today and

24 yesterday, in wartime and in peace, such designs to

25 be consistent with the traditions and heritage of the

1 United States Coast Guard, the mission and goals of  
2 the National Coast Guard Museum, and the mis-  
3 sions and goals of the National Coast Guard Mu-  
4 seum Association;

5 (2) be selected by the Secretary, after consulta-  
6 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the  
7 National Coast Guard Museum Association, and the  
8 Commission of Fine Arts; and

9 (3) be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advi-  
10 sory Committee.

11 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

14 (b) **MINT FACILITIES.**—For each of the 3 coins mint-  
15 ed under this Act, at least 1 facility of the United States  
16 Mint shall be used to strike proof quality coins, while at  
17 least 1 other such facility shall be used to strike the uncir-  
18 culated quality coins.

19 (c) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may  
20 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
21 period beginning on January 1, 2018.

22 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

1 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

4 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
5 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
6 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

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

10 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

17 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

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

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

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

24 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
25 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by



1 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
2 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National  
3 Coast Guard Museum Association to help finance the de-  
4 sign, construction, operations, and maintenance of the Na-  
5 tional Coast Guard Museum.

6 (c) AUDITS.—The National Coast Guard Museum  
7 Association shall be subject to the audit requirements of  
8 section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with  
9 regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

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

19 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

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

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

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