

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2519

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Received

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as “The American Legion
3 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

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

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

16 (3) The American Legion conferences in Wash-
17 ington, DC, in 1923 and 1924 crafted the first
18 United States Flag Code, which was adopted in
19 schools, States, cities and counties prior to being en-
20 acted in 1942, establishing the proper use, display,
21 and respect for the colors of the United States;

22 (4) during World War II, The American Legion
23 developed and presented to Congress its case for
24 vastly improved support for medically discharged,
25 disabled veterans, which ultimately became the Serv-
26 icemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284;

1 chapter 268), better known as the G.I. Bill of
2 Rights, and was drafted by former American Legion
3 National Commander Harry W. Colmery in Wash-
4 ington's Mayflower Hotel;

5 (5) through the leadership and advocacy of The
6 American Legion, the G.I. Bill was enacted in June
7 1944, which led to monumental changes in United
8 States society, including the democratization of high-
9 er education, home ownership for average people in
10 the United States, better VA hospitals, business and
11 farm loans for veterans, and the ability to appeal
12 conditions of military discharge;

13 (6) defying those who argued the G.I. Bill
14 would break the Treasury, according to various re-
15 searchers, the G.I. Bill provided a tremendous re-
16 turn on investment of \$7 to the United States econ-
17 omy for every \$1 spent on the program, triggering
18 a half-century of prosperity in the United States;

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

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

1 (9) The American Legion fought to see the Vet-
2 erans Administration elevated to Cabinet-level status
3 as the Department of Veterans Affairs, ensuring
4 support for veterans would be set at the highest level
5 of the Federal Government, as a priority issue for
6 the President;

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

12 (11) building on these efforts, legislation was
13 passed in 1988 to create the United States Court of
14 Veterans Appeals, today known as the United States
15 Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;

16 (12) The American Legion created the Amer-
17 ican Legacy Scholarship Fund for children of mili-
18 tary members killed on active duty on or after Sep-
19 tember 11, 2001;

20 (13) in 2016, The American Legion's National
21 Executive Committee amended the original scholar-
22 ship criteria to include children of veterans with 50
23 percent or greater VA disability ratings;

24 (14) President George W. Bush signed into law
25 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act

1 (title V of the Supplemental Appropriations Act,
2 2008; 122 Stat. 2357), a next-generation G.I. Bill
3 strongly supported by The American Legion and the
4 most comprehensive educational benefits package
5 since the original G.I. Bill of Rights was enacted in
6 1944;

7 (15) in August 2018, The American Legion will
8 begin its centennial recognition at the 100th Na-
9 tional Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the
10 site of the first American Legion National Conven-
11 tion; and

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

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

17 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In recognition and celebration
18 of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, the
19 Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred
20 to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following
21 coins:

22 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5
23 coins, which shall—

24 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

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

2 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000

3 \$1 coins, which shall—

4 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

7 (3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more

8 than 750,000 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. DESIGN OF COINS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The design for the coins minted

23 under this Act shall be emblematic of The American Le-

24 gion.

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

3 (1) a designation of the denomination of the
4 coin;

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

6 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
7 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
8 “E Pluribus Unum”.

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

11 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
12 with—

13 (A) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

14 (B) the Adjutant of The American Legion,
15 as defined in the constitution and bylaws of
16 The American Legion; and

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

19 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

1 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

2 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act
3 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price based upon the
4 sum of—

5 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

14 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

21 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (3) promoting the importance of maintaining
15 the patriotic values, morals, culture, and citizenship
16 of the United States; and

17 (4) promoting the importance of maintaining
18 strong families, assistance for at-risk children, and
19 activities that promote their healthy and wholesome
20 development.

21 (c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no
22 surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
23 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
24 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
25 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-

1 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual com-
2 memorative coin program issuance limitation under sec-
3 tion 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in ef-
4 fect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
5 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
6 this subsection.

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

11 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

14 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
15 will not result in any net cost to the United States
16 Government; and

17 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
18 are disbursed to the recipient designated in section
19 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of
20 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,
21 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses,
22 marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United

1 States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m)
2 and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25,
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.