

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 754

AN ACT

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

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 “Anwar Sadat Centen-
3 nial Celebration Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Anwar Sadat was born on December 25,
7 1918, in Mit Abu al-Kum, al-Minufiyah, Egypt, as
8 1 of 13 children in a poor Egyptian family.

9 (2) In 1938, Sadat graduated from the Royal
10 Military Academy in Cairo and was appointed to the
11 Signal Corps.

12 (3) Sadat entered the Army as a second lieuten-
13 ant and was posted to Sudan where he met Gamal
14 Abdel Nasser and fellow junior officers who became
15 the “Free Officers” who led the Egyptian revolution
16 of 1952.

17 (4) Sadat held various high positions during
18 Nasser’s presidency, assuming the role of President
19 of the National Assembly in 1960 and Vice Presi-
20 dent in 1964.

21 (5) President Nasser died of a heart attack on
22 September 28, 1970, at which point Sadat became
23 acting President. Sadat was subsequently elected as
24 the third President of Egypt.

25 (6) On October 6, 1973, President Sadat, along
26 with his Syrian counterparts, launched an offensive

1 against Israel. A permanent cease-fire was reached
2 on October 25, 1973.

3 (7) In 1974, after talks facilitated by Secretary
4 of State Henry Kissinger, Egypt and Israel signed
5 an agreement allowing Egypt to formally retrieve
6 land in the Sinai. President Sadat later wrote in his
7 memoirs that his meetings with Kissinger “marked
8 the beginning of a relationship of mutual under-
9 standing with the United States culminating and
10 crystallizing in what we came to describe as a ‘peace
11 process’. Together we started that process and the
12 United States still supports our joint efforts to this
13 day”.

14 (8) Months of diplomacy between Egypt and
15 Israel followed the signing of this initial agreement
16 and a second disengagement agreement, the Sinai
17 Interim Agreement, was signed in September of
18 1975.

19 (9) President Sadat addressed a joint session of
20 Congress on November 5, 1975, during which he un-
21 derscored the shared values between the United
22 States and Egypt. In this speech, President Sadat
23 addressed the path to peace, saying, “We are faced,
24 together with other nations, with one of the greatest
25 challenges of our time, namely the task of convincing

1 this generation, and those to follow, that we can fi-
2 nally build a viable international system capable of
3 meeting the demands of tomorrow and solving the
4 problems of the coming age”.

5 (10) On November 19, 1977, President Sadat
6 became the first Arab leader to visit Israel, meeting
7 with the Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin.
8 President Sadat spoke before the Israeli Knesset in
9 Jerusalem about his views on how to achieve com-
10 prehensive peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

11 (11) Before commencing negotiations, President
12 Sadat courageously announced to the Knesset, “I
13 have come to you so that together we might build a
14 durable peace based on justice, to avoid the shedding
15 of 1 single drop of blood from an Arab or an Israeli.
16 It is for this reason that I have proclaimed my read-
17 iness to go to the farthest corner of the world”.
18 President Sadat further poignantly stated that “any
19 life lost in war is a human life, irrespective of its
20 being that of an Israeli or an Arab. . . . When the
21 bells of peace ring, there will be no hands to beat
22 the drums of war”.

23 (12) On September 17, 1978, President Jimmy
24 Carter hosted President Sadat and Prime Minister
25 Begin at Camp David where the 3 leaders engaged

1 in 13 days of negotiations that resulted in the
2 “Framework for Peace in the Middle East” (com-
3 monly known as the “Camp David Accords”).

4 (13) Following negotiations, President Sadat
5 and Prime Minister Begin signed the Egypt-Israel
6 Peace Treaty (in this section referred to as the
7 “Peace Treaty”) at the White House on March 26,
8 1979. Addressing President Sadat at the signing of
9 the Peace Treaty, which remains an important an-
10 chor for peace in the region today, Prime Minister
11 Begin commended President Sadat by saying, “In
12 the face of adversity and hostility, you have dem-
13 onstrated the human value that can change his-
14 tory—civil courage”.

15 (14) The Peace Treaty featured mutual rec-
16 ognition of each country by the other and ultimately
17 the cessation of the state of war that had existed be-
18 tween Israel and Egypt since the 1948 Arab-Israeli
19 War. Israel completely withdrew its armed forces
20 and civilians from the rest of the Sinai.

21 (15) In 1978, both President Sadat and Prime
22 Minister Begin were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
23 for signing the Peace Treaty, which made Egypt the
24 first Arab country to officially recognize Israel.

1 (16) While presenting the Nobel Peace Prize to
2 President Sadat, Aase Lionaes, Chairman of the
3 Norwegian Nobel Committee, said, “During the 30
4 preceding years, the peoples of the Middle East
5 have, on 4 separate occasions, been the victims of
6 warfare and there seemed no prospect of peace.
7 President Sadat’s great contribution to peace was
8 that he had sufficient courage and foresight to break
9 away from this vicious circle. His decision to accept
10 Prime Minister Menachem Begin’s invitation of No-
11 vember 17, 1977, to attend a meeting of the Israeli
12 parliament on November 19 was an act of great
13 courage, both from a personal and from a political
14 point of view. This was a dramatic break with the
15 past and a courageous step forward into a new age”.

16 (17) During his Nobel lecture, President Sadat
17 remarked, “I made my trip because I am convinced
18 that we owe it to this generation and the generations
19 to come not to leave a stone unturned in our pursuit
20 of peace”.

21 (18) In remarks to the People’s Assembly in
22 Cairo on March 10, 1979, President Carter praised
23 President Sadat, telling the Assembly, “Your Presi-
24 dent has demonstrated the power of human courage
25 and human vision to create hope where there had

1 been only despair.”. President Carter also said that
2 the Peace Treaty would “strengthen cooperation be-
3 tween Egypt and the United States” and under-
4 scored the support of the United States for the
5 agreement, saying, “I fully share and will support
6 President Sadat’s belief that stability must be main-
7 tained in this part of the world . . . He and I recog-
8 nize that the security of this vital region is being
9 challenged. I applaud his determination to meet that
10 challenge, and my Government will stand with him”.

11 (19) The signing of the Peace Treaty enraged
12 many individuals who opposed normalized relations
13 with Israel. President Sadat was assassinated on Oc-
14 tober 6, 1981, by Khalid Islambouli, a member of
15 Egyptian Islamic Jihad. President Sadat was well
16 aware of the controversy to which his actions would
17 lead, but pushed for peace anyway.

18 (20) Upon the death of President Sadat, Presi-
19 dent Ronald Reagan proclaimed, “President Sadat
20 was a courageous man whose vision and wisdom
21 brought nations and people together. In a world
22 filled with hatred, he was a man of hope. In a world
23 trapped in the animosities of the past, he was a man
24 of foresight, a man who sought to improve a world
25 tormented by malice and pettiness”.

1 (21) President Sadat is recognized in the
2 United States and throughout the world as a re-
3 spected leader and champion of peace whose vision
4 provided a roadmap for the peaceful resolution of
5 conflict that endures nearly 40 years after its incep-
6 tion.

7 (22) President Sadat bravely reached out to
8 Israel and dedicated himself to peace, furthering the
9 national security of Egypt and the stability of the
10 Middle East.

11 (23) On the 30th anniversary of the Peace
12 Treaty, President Barack Obama praised the endur-
13 ing legacy of the Camp David Accords and the
14 “courage and foresight of these leaders, who stood
15 together in unity to change the course of our shared
16 history”. President Obama closed by saying,
17 “Today, as we seek to expand the circle of peace
18 among Arabs and Israelis, we take inspiration from
19 what Israel and Egypt achieved 3 decades ago,
20 knowing that the destination is worthy of the strug-
21 gle”.

22 (24) The Camp David Accords and the Peace
23 Treaty continue to serve the interests of the United
24 States by preserving peace and serving as a founda-

1 tion for partnership and dialogue in a region fraught
2 with conflict and division.

3 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

4 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
5 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
6 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
7 posthumous award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal
8 of appropriate design to Anwar Sadat in recognition of
9 his achievements and heroic actions to attain comprehen-
10 sive peace in the Middle East.

11 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
12 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
13 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
14 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
15 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

16 (c) PRESENTATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The gold medal referred to
18 in subsection (a) shall be presented to—

19 (A)(i) the widow of Anwar Sadat, Jehan
20 Sadat; or

21 (ii) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next
22 of kin of Jehan Sadat; and

23 (B) a representative of the Government of
24 Egypt.

1 (2) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the presen-
2 tation described in paragraph (1), the gold medal
3 shall be given to—

4 (A) Jehan Sadat; or

5 (B) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next
6 of kin of Jehan Sadat.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
9 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 under
10 such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price
11 sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, mate-
12 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and
13 the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

15 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
16 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
17 of title 31, United States Code.

18 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
19 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

- 1 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
- 2 items.

Passed the House of Representatives September 26,
2018.

Attest:

Clerk.

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