

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 64

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Banking and Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and for other purposes.

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 “Lewis and Clark Expe-  
5       dition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that—

8               (1) the expedition commanded by Meriwether  
9       Lewis and William Clark, which came to be called  
10       “The Corps of Discovery”, was one of the most re-

1       markable and productive scientific and military ex-  
2       ploring expeditions in all American history;

3               (2) President Thomas Jefferson gave Lewis and  
4       Clark the mission to “explore the Missouri River &  
5       such principal stream of it, as, by its course and  
6       communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean,  
7       whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any  
8       other river may offer the most direct and practical  
9       water communication across this continent for the  
10      purposes of commerce”;

11              (3) the Expedition, in response to President  
12      Jefferson’s directive, greatly advanced our geo-  
13      graphical knowledge of the continent and prepared  
14      the way for the extension of the American fur trade  
15      with American Indian tribes throughout the land;

16              (4) President Jefferson directed the explorers to  
17      take note of and carefully record the natural re-  
18      sources of the newly acquired territory known as  
19      Louisiana, as well as diligently report on the native  
20      inhabitants of the land;

21              (5) the Expedition departed St. Louis, Missouri  
22      on May 14, 1804;

23              (6) the Expedition held its first meeting with  
24      American Indians at Council Bluff near present-day  
25      Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, in August 1804, spent its

1 first winter at Fort Mandan, North Dakota, crossed  
2 the Rocky Mountains by the mouth of the Columbia  
3 River in mid-November of that year, and wintered at  
4 Fort Clatsop, near the present-day city of Astoria,  
5 Oregon;

6 (7) the Expedition returned to St. Louis, Mis-  
7 souri, on September 23, 1806, after a 28-month  
8 journey covering 8,000 miles during which it tra-  
9 versed 11 future States: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas,  
10 Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Mon-  
11 tana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon;

12 (8) accounts from the journals of Lewis and  
13 Clark and the detailed maps that were prepared by  
14 the Expedition enhance knowledge of the western  
15 continent and routes for commerce;

16 (9) the Expedition significantly enhanced ami-  
17 cable relationships between the United States and  
18 the autonomous American Indian nations, and the  
19 friendship and respect fostered between American  
20 Indian tribes and the Expedition represents the best  
21 of diplomacy and relationships between divergent na-  
22 tions and cultures; and

23 (10) the Lewis and Clark Expedition has been  
24 called the most perfect expedition of its kind in the

1 history of the world and paved the way for the  
2 United States to become a great world power.

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

4 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the bi-  
5 centennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Sec-  
6 retary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to  
7 as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue—

8 (1) not more than 200,000 \$1 coins, each of  
9 which shall—

10 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

12 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
13 cent copper; and

14 (2) not more than 200,000 half dollar coins,  
15 each of which shall—

16 (A) weigh 12.50 grams;

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

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

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

23 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
24 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
25 under this title shall be considered to be numismatic items.

1 **SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.**

2       The Secretary may obtain silver for minting coins  
3 under this title from any available source, including stock-  
4 piles established under the Strategic and Critical Mate-  
5 rials Stock Piling Act.

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

7       (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
9 minted under this title shall be emblematic of the ex-  
10 pedition of Lewis and Clark.

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

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

14           (B) an inscription of the years “1804–  
15 1806”; and

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

19          (3) OBVERSE OF COIN.—The obverse of each  
20 coin minted under this title shall bear the likeness  
21 of Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis and William  
22 Clark.

23          (4) GENERAL DESIGN.—In designing this coin,  
24 the Secretary shall also consider incorporating ap-  
25 propriate elements from the Jefferson Peace and  
26 Friendship Medal which Lewis and Clark presented

1 to the Chiefs of the various Indian tribes they en-  
2 countered and shall consider recognizing Native  
3 American culture.

4 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
5 under this title shall be selected by the Secretary after  
6 consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and shall  
7 be reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory  
8 Committee.

9 **SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

10 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this  
11 title shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

12 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United  
13 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality  
14 of the coins minted under this title.

15 (c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary  
16 may issue coins minted under this title beginning on Janu-  
17 ary 1, 2003.

18 (d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No  
19 coins may be minted under this title after December 31,  
20 2003.

21 **SEC. 7. SALE OF COINS.**

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

25 (1) the face value of the coins;

1           (2) the surcharge provided in subsection (d)  
2       with respect to such coins; and

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

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

9       (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

16       (d) SURCHARGES.—All sales of coins minted under  
17       this title shall include a surcharge of—

18           (1) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

19           (2) \$7 per coin for the half dollar coin.

20       **SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.**

21       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title  
22       31, United States Code, the proceeds from the surcharges  
23       received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued  
24       under this title shall be promptly paid by the Secretary  
25       as follows:

1           (1) NATIONAL LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTEN-  
 2           NIAL COUNCIL.— $\frac{2}{3}$  to the National Lewis and Clark  
 3           Bicentennial Council, for activities associated with  
 4           commemorating the bicentennial of the Expedition.

5           (2) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.— $\frac{1}{3}$  to the Na-  
 6           tional Park Service for activities associated with  
 7           commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and  
 8           Clark Expedition.

9           (b) AUDITS.—Each organization that receives any  
 10          payment from the Secretary under this section shall be  
 11          subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of  
 12          title 31, United States Code.

13       **SEC. 9. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

14          (a) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Sec-  
 15          retary shall take such actions as may be necessary to en-  
 16          sure that minting and issuing coins under this title will  
 17          not result in any net cost to the United States Govern-  
 18          ment.

19          (b) PAYMENT FOR COINS.—A coin shall not be issued  
 20          under this title unless the Secretary has received—

21               (1) full payment for the coin;

22               (2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to in-  
 23          demnify the United States for full payment; or

24               (3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to  
 25          the Secretary from a depository institution whose



1        deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insur-  
2        ance Corporation or the National Credit Union Ad-  
3        ministration Board.

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