

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2921

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 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2004

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. SESSIONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

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 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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 and JPL 50th  
5       Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

7       (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the  
8       50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aer-

1 onautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion  
2 Laboratory, the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act re-  
3 ferred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the fol-  
4 lowing coins:

5 (1) \$10 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 75,000  
6 \$10 gold coins of such specifications as the Sec-  
7 retary determines to be appropriate.

8 (2) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000  
9 \$5 coins, which shall—

10 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

12 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent  
13 alloy.

14 (3) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000  
15 \$1 coins, which shall—

16 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

20 (4) HALF DOLLAR SILVER COINS.—Not more  
21 than 500,000 half dollar coins which shall—

22 (A) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

23 (B) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
24 cent copper.

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

4 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
 5 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
 6 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

7 **SEC. 3. DESIGN OF COINS.**

8 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
 10 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 50  
 11 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of  
 12 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
 13 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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

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

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

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

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

20 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”, and such other

21 inscriptions as the Secretary may determine to

22 be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

23 (3) COIN IMAGES.—

24 (A) \$10 COINS.—The reverse of the \$10

25 coins issued under this Act shall bear a design

1 emblematic of the sacrifice of the United States  
2 astronauts who lost their lives in the line of  
3 duty over the course of the space program.

4 (B) \$5 COINS.—The reverse of the \$5  
5 coins issued under this Act shall bear at least  
6 2 different designs—

7 (i) 1 of which shall be emblematic of  
8 the Moon missions of the National Aero-  
9 nautics and Space Administration; and

10 (ii) 1 of which shall be emblematic of  
11 the Earth missions of the National Aero-  
12 nautics and Space Administration.

13 (C) \$1 COINS.—

14 (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the \$1  
15 coins issued under this Act shall honor the  
16 achievements of the Jet Propulsion Lab-  
17 oratory and bear an image emblematic of  
18 the missions and achievements of the Lab-  
19 oratory in the exploration of the solar sys-  
20 tem.

21 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1  
22 coins issued under this Act shall bear 8  
23 different designs, each of which shall con-  
24 sist of an image of 1 of the 8 planets of  
25 the solar system, other than Earth, and be

1 emblematic of the missions of the National  
 2 Aeronautics and Space Administration and  
 3 the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to such  
 4 planet.

5 (D) HALF DOLLAR COINS.—The reverse of  
 6 the half dollar coins issued under this Act shall  
 7 bear an image of the universe.

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

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

23 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation  
 24 with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics  
 25 and Space Administration, the Director of the Jet

1 Propulsion Laboratory, and the Commission of Fine  
2 Arts; and

3 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory  
4 Committee.

5 **SEC. 4. SYMBOLIC INCLUSION OF PRECIOUS METALS THAT**  
6 **HAVE FLOWN IN SPACE.**

7 (a) COLLECTION.—Each Federal agency and instru-  
8 mentality of the United States, including the Department  
9 of Defense, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Aer-  
10 onautics and Space Administration, and the Jet Propul-  
11 sion Laboratory, that has in its possession any craft, or  
12 any part of a craft, that flew in space shall—

13 (1) retrieve any gold, silver, copper, and other  
14 precious metal that the Director of the United  
15 States Mint determines may be used in the produc-  
16 tion of any coins under this Act, from such craft or  
17 part, that can be retrieved without harming any  
18 such craft or part that may be of continuing use for  
19 its original purpose or for research, or whose preser-  
20 vation is appropriate for historical purposes; and

21 (2) deposit such precious metals so retrieved  
22 with the Director of the United States Mint.

23 (b) SEGREGATION AND RECORDKEEPING.—Each  
24 Federal agency and instrumentality of the United States  
25 which retrieves any precious metals in accordance with

1 subsection (a), and the Director of the United States Mint  
2 with respect to precious metals deposited with the Mint  
3 in accordance with such subsection, shall maintain such  
4 precious metals separately from other metals not so re-  
5 trieved or obtained, and shall maintain accurate and com-  
6 plete records of the retrieval and deposit of any such pre-  
7 cious metals.

8 (c) USE OF PRECIOUS METALS IN PRODUCTION OF  
9 COINS.—Any precious metals deposited with the Director  
10 of the United States Mint under subsection (a) shall be  
11 used in the production of the coins minted under this Act,  
12 by blending such precious metals with other bullion nec-  
13 essary for the production of such coins so that all of the  
14 coins produced under this Act will contain some propor-  
15 tion of the bullion obtained from craft or parts of crafts  
16 that flew in space, in an amount appropriate for the types  
17 and denominations of the coins and the amount of pre-  
18 cious metals so deposited.

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) SETS.—In issuing coins minted under this Act,  
23 the Secretary shall make not fewer than 25,000 sets of  
24 coins available for issuance, each of which shall contain  
25 the coins of each denomination of the coins minted under

1 this Act, including a coin bearing each design required for  
2 the reverse of any such denomination of coin.

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

7 (d) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary  
8 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January  
9 1, 2008.

10 (e) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No  
11 coins may be minted under this Act after December 31,  
12 2008.

13 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

14 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act  
15 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum  
16 of—

17 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

23 (b) PREPAID ORDERS.—



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

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

7   **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

10           (1) A surcharge of \$75 per coin for the \$10  
11       coin.

12           (2) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

13           (3) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

14           (4) A surcharge of \$3 per coin for the half dol-  
15       lar coin.

16       (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
17       title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
18       the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
19       shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the NASA  
20       Family Assistance Fund, for the purposes of providing  
21       need-based financial assistance to the families of NASA  
22       personnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the  
23       performance of their official duties.

24       (c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund  
25       shall be subject to the audit requirements of section

- 1 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard
- 2 to the amounts received by the under subsection (b).

