

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 985

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

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-

1 ice under the United States Department of the
2 Treasury.

3 (2) Congress created the Coast Guard on Janu-
4 ary 28, 1915, by merging the Revenue Cutter Serv-
5 ice and the United States Lifesaving Service, was
6 moved to the Department of Transportation in
7 1967, and on February 25, 2003, became part of
8 the Department of Homeland Security.

9 (3) Although the smallest of the uniformed
10 services, today the United States Coast Guard con-
11 ducts a wide variety of missions to protect the pub-
12 lic, the environment, and the United States economic
13 and security interests in any maritime region, in-
14 cluding international waters and America's coasts,
15 ports, and inland waterways.

16 (4) Every day, the United States Coast Guard
17 plays a broad and important role in homeland secu-
18 rity, law enforcement, search and rescue, marine en-
19 vironmental pollution response, and the maintenance
20 of river, intra-coastal and offshore aids to navigation
21 (ATON).

22 (5) The United States Coast Guard is our Na-
23 tion's oldest seagoing military service, staying true
24 to their motto, Semper Paratus or "Always Ready,"
25 for 225 years.

1 (6) The United States Coast Guard is sup-
2 ported by 57,600 Active Duty, Reserve, and Civilian
3 personnel, who in 2013 responded to 17,000 search
4 and rescue cases saving 7,400 lives, conducted over
5 21,000 waterborne patrols of maritime infrastruc-
6 ture and resources, performed 32,500 maritime se-
7 curity response activities (including 21,000 water-
8 borne patrols of critical maritime infrastructure and
9 resources, 2,000 escorts of high-capacity passenger
10 vessels, 8,400 security boardings in and around U.S.
11 ports), removed \$3 billion worth of illegal drugs, pa-
12 trolled 4.5 million miles of maritime borders for im-
13 migration enforcement, and maintained 49,000 navi-
14 gation aids ensuring the smooth transit of \$1.8 tril-
15 lion worth of goods over 25,000 miles of our Na-
16 tion’s waterways.

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

23 (8) The National Coast Guard Museum Asso-
24 ciation, a nonprofit association dedicated to improve
25 public understanding of the history, service and mis-

1 sions of the Coast Guard, is working with the
 2 United States Coast Guard, the City of New Lon-
 3 don, the State of Connecticut, and a range of local,
 4 regional, and national stakeholders to develop, plan
 5 and raise capital for the National Coast Guard Mu-
 6 seum, to be located in New London, Connecticut.

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

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

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

15 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000
 16 \$5 coins, which shall—

17 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

19 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
 20 alloy.

21 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000
 22 \$1 coins, which shall—

23 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

25 (C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

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

3 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

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

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

11 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
12 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
13 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
14 matic items.

15 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COIN.**

16 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
18 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
19 traditions, history, and heritage of the United States
20 Coast Guard, and its role in securing our Nation
21 since 1790.

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

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

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

1 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,
2 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-
3 ica”, “E Pluribus Unum”, and “Semper
4 Paratus”.

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

7 (1) contain motifs that specifically honor the
8 United States Coastguardsman of both today and
9 yesterday, in wartime and in peace, such designs to
10 be consistent with the traditions and heritage of the
11 United States Coast Guard, the mission and goals of
12 the National Coast Guard Museum, and the mis-
13 sions and goals of the National Coast Guard Mu-
14 seum Association;

15 (2) be selected by the Secretary, after consulta-
16 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
17 National Coast Guard Museum Association, and the
18 Commission of Fine Arts; and

19 (3) be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advi-
20 sory Committee.

21 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

24 (b) MINT FACILITIES.—For each of the 3 coins mint-
25 ed under this Act, at least 1 facility of the United States

1 Mint shall be used to strike proof quality coins, while at
2 least 1 other such facility shall be used to strike the uncir-
3 culated quality coins.

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

7 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

11 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

20 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

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

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

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

11 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
12 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
13 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
14 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National
15 Coast Guard Museum Association to help finance the de-
16 sign, construction, operations, and maintenance of the Na-
17 tional Coast Guard Museum.

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

22 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
23 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
24 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
25 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin

1 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
2 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
3 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
4 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code. The
5 Secretary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

6 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

9 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
10 will not result in any net cost to the United States
11 Government; and

12 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
13 shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-
14 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing
15 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including
16 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
17 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the
18 United States Treasury, consistent with sections
19 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States
20 Code.

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