

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1805

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2019

Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KILMER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. COLE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. HICE of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

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 “Tomb of the Unknown
5 Soldier Centennial Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a me-
2 memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery. On
3 March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an
4 unidentified soldier of the United States on the site
5 to commemorate the unknown soldiers who died dur-
6 ing World War I.

7 (2) As of the date of enactment of this Act, the
8 site also includes unknown soldiers from World War
9 II and the Korean War. These graves are marked
10 with white marble slabs embedded in the plaza below
11 the original sarcophagus.

12 (3) The original white marble sarcophagus of
13 the unknown soldier from World War I features 3
14 Greek figures representing peace, victory, and valor.
15 There are 6 wreaths, 3 sculpted on each side, which
16 represent the major campaigns of World War I.

17 (4) The original unknown soldier lay in the ro-
18 tunda of the Capitol from his arrival in the United
19 States until Armistice Day, 1921. President Warren
20 G. Harding officiated at the interment ceremonies at
21 the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National
22 Cemetery.

23 (5) The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is
24 guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in
25 any weather by Tomb Guard sentinels. The senti-

1 nels, all of whom are volunteers, are considered to
2 be the best of the elite 3d Infantry Regiment of the
3 Army (commonly known as the “Old Guard”),
4 headquartered at Fort Myer, Virginia.

5 (6) Inscribed on the back of the Tomb of the
6 Unknown Soldier are the words, “Here rests in hon-
7 ored glory an American soldier known but to God”.

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

9 (a) \$1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
10 ury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall mint
11 and issue not more than 100,000 \$1 coins in commemora-
12 tion of the centennial of the establishment of the Tomb
13 of the Unknown Soldier, each of which shall—

- 14 (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
- 15 (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- 16 (3) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

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

20 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
21 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
22 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
23 matic items.

24 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

25 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
2 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
3 centennial of the establishment of the Tomb of the
4 Unknown Soldier.

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

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

8 (B) an inscription of the year “2021”; and

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

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

14 (1) chosen by the Secretary after consultation
15 with—

16 (A) the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb
17 of the Unknown Soldier; and

18 (B) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

19 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
20 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.

1 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United
2 States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality
3 of the coins minted under this Act.

4 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
5 issue coins under this Act only during the 1-year period
6 beginning on January 1, 2021.

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 described in section 7 with re-
13 spect to the 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 date on which the coins are issued.

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 issued under this
6 Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

7 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
8 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
9 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
10 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National
11 World War I Museum and Memorial for the purposes of
12 commemorating the centennial of the establishment of the
13 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

14 (c) AUDITS.—The National World War I Museum
15 and Memorial shall be subject to the audit requirements
16 under section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code,
17 with respect to the amounts received under subsection (b).

18 (d) LIMITATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
20 (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to
21 the issuance of any coin under this Act during a cal-
22 endar year if, on the date of the issuance, the
23 issuance of the coin would result in the number of
24 commemorative coin programs issued during that

1 year to exceed the limitation under section
2 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code.

3 (2) ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.—The Secretary
4 may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

5 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

8 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
9 shall result in no net cost to the Federal Govern-
10 ment; and

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

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