

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee and also the ranking member for their cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, early in this Congress, I, along with the rest of the Virginia delegation introduced the James Madison Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation instructs the U.S. Treasury to mint \$1 commemorative coins to honor the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison.

The proceeds from the sale of this coin, once the Treasury has recovered all production costs, will go to the National Trust for Historic Preservation to be used to establish an endowment to be a permanent source of support for Montpelier, the home of James and Dolley Madison. In addition, profits from this coin will help fund a capital restoration project at Montpelier, which is in dire need of repairs.

I am proud to report 313 of our colleagues share my desire to see Montpelier protected and have cosponsored H.R. 1684. As this coin required the approval of the Citizen's Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, Representative CASTLE, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, asked the Coin Committee to review H.R. 1684.

The Citizen's Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee found H.R. 1684 met all of its necessary criteria for approval except one—the rule against honoring the same person twice in a period of 10 years.

In 1993, James Madison was depicted on a coin observing the bicentennial of the Bill of Rights. Recognizing the need to protect Montpelier, the Citizen's Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee unanimously approved an alternate proposal—a coin honoring Dolley Madison in 1999, the 150th anniversary of her death. An amendment was adopted at the subcommittee level of H.R. 1684, which will instruct the Treasury to mint a Dolley Madison Commemorative Coin in 1999.

A commemorative coin honoring Dolley Madison would be the first coin to honor a First Lady. Furthermore, Dolley Madison would be only the third woman to be so honored. I can think of no First Lady who deserves this honor more.

Dolley Madison was the originator of the role of First Lady as it exists today. She rejected the somewhat aloof and monarchical role crafted by previous First Ladies and redefined the position to be as she was—democratic and accessible, yet always stylish and always elegant.

By nature, kind and gracious—and married to a very shy man—Dolley Madison took on the responsibility for crafting the social activities that are so essential to the affairs of state. This was more than just throwing successful parties—it was a bridge between the official work of Washington and the private social life of the first couple.

She was such a compelling and popular figure that she acted as hostess for

the widowed Thomas Jefferson while her husband served as Jefferson's Secretary of State. Thus, Dolley Madison's term as First Lady extended from 1801 to 1817—over 16 years.

Charles Cotesworth Pickney, who ran against James Madison for the Presidency, saw first hand how the Nation loved Dolley Madison. After losing to Madison, Charles Pickney said, "I was beaten by Mr. and Mrs. Madison. I might have had a better chance had I faced (Mr.) Madison alone." With the elections approaching, I know many of us would be lucky to have Dolley Madison in our corner.

While Dolley Madison served in the White House as First Lady with unprecedented grace, I feel certain Mrs. Madison would be upset at the condition of her and her husband's home at Montpelier.

Dolley Madison was forced to sell the 2,700 acre estate at Montpelier in 1844. Thereafter, Montpelier changed hands six times before being purchased in 1900 by the industrialist William Henry duPont. Montpelier remained in private ownership until 1984 when, upon the death of Marion duPont Scott, the estate was bequeathed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In her will, Ms. Scott directed the National Trust to maintain Montpelier as, "an historic shrine * * * to James Madison and his times."

Unfortunately, during the years of private ownership, the physical structure of Madison's home fell into disrepair.

The house appears sound at first glance, however, there are many basic structural repairs which are needed. While the National Trust has invested over \$5 million in repairs, the development and the operation of Montpelier as a museum and Presidential home, much work remains to be done. Because of the property's scale, many additional infrastructure and capital improvements still are needed for Montpelier to become fully adapted for public use.

It is these improvements which will be undertaken with the proceeds from the Dolley Madison Commemorative Coin. With the funds from the minting of this coin in 1999, Montpelier will be able to realize its full potential.

Visitors arriving at Montpelier will be able to walk the grounds James Madison did as he formed the ideas which would become the principles on which our Nation is based. It was at Montpelier where the ideas which became the basis for the Federalist Papers and the Bill of Rights were formed.

With the passage of H.R. 1684, future generations will be able to visit Montpelier and study the Madisons' legacy. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1684 to ensure the Madisons' home is protected for future generations.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative CASTLE for his help on H.R. 1684 as well as bringing this legislation before his subcommit-

tee for consideration. Also, I would like to thank Representative PETE GEREN. Without Congressman GEREN's hard work, we might not have gotten the 290 cosponsors needed in order to bring this legislation to the floor.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1684, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the death of Dolley Madison"

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GEORGE WASHINGTON COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2026) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2026

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "George Washington Commemorative Coin Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) \$5 GOLD COINS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 100,000 5 dollar coins, which shall—

- (1) weigh 8.359 grams;
- (2) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and
- (3) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

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

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 3. SOURCES OF BULLION.

The Secretary shall obtain gold for minting coins under this Act pursuant to the authority of the Secretary under other provisions of law.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of George Washington.

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

- (A) a designation of the value of the coin;
- (B) an inscription of the year "1999"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

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

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

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

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

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary shall issue coins minted under this Act beginning May 1, 1999.

(d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No coins may be minted under this Act after November 31, 1999.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

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

(1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) SURCHARGES.—All sales shall include a surcharge of \$35 per coin.

SEC. 7. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods and services necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(b) EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.—Subsection (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a contract under the authority of this Act from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.

Subject to section 10(a), all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Association") and shall be used—

(1) to supplement the Association's endowment for the purpose of providing a permanent source of support for the preservation of George Washington's home; and

(2) to provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of the Association's efforts to educate the American public about George Washington.

SEC. 9. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

(a) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government.

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

(1) full payment for the coin;

(2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to indemnify the United States for full payment; or

(3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to the Secretary from a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Administration Board.

SEC. 10. CONDITIONS ON PAYMENT OF SURCHARGES.

(a) PAYMENT OF SURCHARGES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amount derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be paid to the Association unless—

(1) all numismatic operation and program costs allocable to the program under which such coins are produced and sold have been recovered; and

(2) the Association submits an audited financial statement which demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury that, with respect to all projects or purposes for which the proceeds of such surcharge may be used, the Association has raised funds from private sources for such projects and purposes in an amount which is equal to or greater than the maximum amount the Association may receive from the proceeds of such surcharge.

(b) ANNUAL AUDITS.—

(1) ANNUAL AUDITS OF RECIPIENTS REQUIRED.—The Association shall provide, as a condition for receiving any amount derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act, for an annual audit, in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards by an independent public accountant selected by the Association, of all such payments to the Association beginning in the first fiscal year of the Association in which any such amount is received and continuing until all such amounts received by the Association with respect to such surcharges are fully expended or placed in trust.

(2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL AUDITS.—At a minimum, each audit of the Association pursuant to paragraph (1) shall report—

(A) the amount of payments received by the Association during the fiscal year of the Association for which the audit is conducted which are derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act;

(B) the amount expended by the Association from the proceeds of such surcharges during the fiscal year of the Association for which the audit is conducted; and

(C) whether all expenditures by the Association from the proceeds of such surcharges during the fiscal year of the Association for which the audit is conducted were for authorized purposes.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSOCIATION TO ACCOUNT FOR EXPENDITURES OF SURCHARGES.—The Association shall take appropriate steps, as a condition for receiving any payment of any amount derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act, to ensure that the receipt of the payment and the expenditure of the proceeds of such surcharge by the Association in each fiscal year of the Association can be accounted for separately from all other revenues and expenditures of the Association.

(4) SUBMISSION OF AUDIT REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of any fiscal year of the Association for which an audit is required under paragraph (1), the Association shall—

(A) submit a copy of the report to the Secretary of the Treasury; and

(B) make a copy of the report available to the public.

(5) USE OF SURCHARGES FOR AUDITS.—The Association may use any amount received from payments derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act to pay the cost of an audit required under paragraph (1).

(6) WAIVER OF SUBSECTION.—The Secretary of the Treasury may waive the application of any paragraph of this subsection to the Association for any fiscal year after taking into account the amount of surcharges which the Association received or expended during such year.

(7) AVAILABILITY OF BOOKS AND RECORDS.—The Association shall provide, as a condition for receiving any payment derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act, to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury or the Comptroller General of the United States, upon the request of such Inspector General or the Comptroller General, all books, records, and workpapers belonging to or used by the Association, or by any independent public accountant who audited the Association in accordance with paragraph (1), which may relate to the receipt or expenditure of any such amount by the Association.

(c) USE OF AGENTS OR ATTORNEYS TO INFLUENCE COMMEMORATIVE COIN LEGISLATION.—No portion of any payment to the Association from amounts derived from the proceeds of surcharges imposed on the sale of coins issued under this Act may be used, directly or indirectly, by the Association to compensate any agent or attorney for services rendered to support or influence in any way legislative action of the Congress relating to the coins minted and issued under this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the next bill of this series is H.R. 2026, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint 100,000 \$5 gold coins in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington. The beneficiaries of this coin's surcharges will be the Ladies of Mount Vernon who look after the memory of our first President and work to preserve the physical plant of his home at Mount Vernon. This coin has been on the recommended list of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee since their annual report of 1994. This year it gained the cosponsorship of over 300 members and is presented to this House free of any controversy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my support for this bill, and will urge my colleagues to do the same. H.R. 2026, like H.R. 1684, has met all the criteria for favorable consideration. It commemorates a significant figure on a significant date; it will ensure that the mint recovers its costs; and it has been endorsed by the CCCAC. Moreover, by passing this

legislation, we will ensure the continued success of George Washington's Mount Vernon residence, which as we all know, is one the Capital region's most popular historical tourist attractions.

I will close by congratulating our colleagues, Mr. MORAN and Mr. DAVIS of northern Virginia, for their assistance in garnering the bipartisan support needed for committee consideration; for not only is this a northern Virginian treasure, it is also an asset that our Nation must always support.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS].

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the 104th Congress, I have been working with the entire Virginia delegation to move this important piece of legislation through Congress. With the assistance of my fellow Virginian, Congressman JIM MORAN, and other cosponsors, H.R. 2062, the George Washington Commemorative Coin Act of 1996, has gained broad bipartisan support in the House.

It is especially fitting that the House pass this legislation honoring George Washington on this date, for it was on September 17, 1796, 200 year ago today, that he authored his farewell address upon his retirement from government, warning our Nation of the dangers of factions or partisanship and national deficits.

H.R. 2062 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue 100,000 \$5 gold coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of George Washington's death in 1799.

The theme of the coin, and it is going to be issued in 1999, the theme of the coin will commemorate an important national historical figure on an anniversary of great national significance.

The proceeds of the coin will benefit historic Mount Vernon which welcomes over 1 million visitors annually from every State in the Union. Although George Washington's image continues to be one of the most familiar in our Nation, Americans are gradually losing touch with the accomplishments, the character and the leadership of this singularly American hero.

Washington's service to the Nation goes far beyond his remarkable leadership during the Revolutionary War and his precedent-setting first term as the President of the United States. Washington was also considered the first farmer of America, a conservationist and environmentalist far ahead of his time.

He helped to found the Nation's Capital. He supported education with both political influence and personal donations, and he sent an important message to the entire world when he freed his slaves in his will.

□ 1745

Washington was not just a great man, he was a good man who always

strived to do what was best for his Nation. The commemorative coin will renew in Washington's vast achievements while supporting broad-based educational programs designed to reach millions of Americans.

Historic Mount Vernon is ideally suited to organize and implement an ongoing educational program in 1999. To date, more than 65 million visitors have toured Washington's home. Millions more have been educated through classroom kits, television and radio programs, publications, and special field trips. In 1999 Mount Vernon is planning scholarly conferences, a major traveling exhibit, several new publications and a host of other programs which will touch the hearts and minds of all Americans.

As we approach the new millennium it is imperative that we, as Americans, not lose sight of the monumental contributions made by George Washington to our Nation.

In an eulogy delivered several days after his death, Henry Light-Horse Harry Lee said that George Washington was a citizen first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen. By moving this commemorative coin forward, we will help to ensure that future generations of Americans truly understand this statement.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, and to the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and his subcommittee, and the ranking member, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] for their efforts with the commemorative coin program and for supporting the George Washington Commemorative Coin Act of 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD Washington's Farewell Address.

To the people of the United States.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those, out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you, at the same time, to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken, without strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country; and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest; no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness; but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me, have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it

would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country, you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust, were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government, the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset, of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience, in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself; and, every day, the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more, that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is to terminate the career of my political life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country, for the many honors it has conferred upon me; still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me; and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment, by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise, and as an instructive example in our annals, that under circumstances in which the passions, agitated in every direction, were liable to mislead amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging—in situations in which not unfrequently, want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism,—the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts, and a guarantee of the plans, by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave, as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence—that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual—that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained—that its administration in every department may be stamped with wisdom and virtue—that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation, and so prudent a use of this blessing, as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger, natural to that solicitude, urge me, on an occasion like the present, to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to

your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom, as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence; the support of your tranquility at home; your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But, as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively (though often covertly and insidiously) directed; it is of infinite moment, that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can, in any event, be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth, or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have, in a common cause, fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess, are the work of joint counsels, and joint efforts, of common dangers, sufferings and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here, every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the union of the whole.

The *North*, in an unrestrained intercourse with the *South*, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter, great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise, and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The *South*, in the same intercourse, benefiting by the same agency of the *North*, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the *North*, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength, to which

itself is unequally adapted. The *East*, in a like intercourse with the *West*, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water, will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad, or manufactures at home. The *West* derives from the *East* supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions, to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one nation. Any other tenure by which the *West* can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength; or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts, greater strength, greater resource proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value, they must derive from union, an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves, which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together by the same government; which their own rivalry alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues, would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise, they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind, and exhibit the continuance of the union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union, affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who, in any quarter, may endeavor to weaken its hands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as matter of serious concern, that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—*Northern* and *Southern*—*Atlantic* and *Western*; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts, is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourself too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations: they tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head: they have seen, in the negotiation by the executive,

and in the unanimous ratification by the senate of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at the event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the general government and in the Atlantic states, unfriendly to their interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the union by which they were procured? will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such they are, who would sever them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute; they must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances, in all times, have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay, by the adoption of a constitution of government, better calculated than your former, for an intimate union, and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice, uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers, uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power, and the right of the people to establish government, presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character, with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberations and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle, and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction, to give it an artificial and extraordinary force, to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils, and modified by mutual interests.

However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men, will be enabled to subvert the power of the people, and to usurp for themselves the reins of government; destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite, not only that you steadily discountenance irregular opposition to its acknowledged authority, but also that

you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretext. One method of assault may be to effect, in the forms of the constitution, alterations which will impair the energy of the system; and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments, as of other human institutions: that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country: that facility in changes, upon the credit of mere hypothesis and opinion, exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypothesis and opinion: and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable. Liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is, indeed, little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular references to the founding them on geographical discrimination. Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness, and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result, gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and, sooner or later, the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purpose of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind, (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it in the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public councils, and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one part against another; foment occasional riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government, and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true; and in governments of a monarchical cast, patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor,

upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be, by force of public opinion, to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent it bursting into a flame, lest instead of warming, it should consume.

It is important likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those intrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department, to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one, and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominate in the human heart, is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories, and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions of the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern: some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for through this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil, any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

It is substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering, also, that timely disbursements, to prepare for

danger, frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions, in time of peace, to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind, that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue; that to have revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper object (which is always a choice of difficulties), ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue, which the public exigencies may at any time debate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct, and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt but, in the course of time and things, the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it; can it be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! Is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan, nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachment for others, should be excluded; and that, in place of them, just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity, or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another, disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence, frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity, and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation's subservient to projects of hostility, instigated by pride, ambition, and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty of nations, has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest, in cases where no real common interest exists, and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducements or justifications. It leads also to concessions, to the favorite nation, or privileges denied to

others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making the concessions, by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained, and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld; and it gives to ambitious, corrupted or deluded citizens who devote themselves to the favorite nation, facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country, without odium, sometimes even with popularity; gilding with the appearances of virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak, towards a great and powerful nation, dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, (I conjure you to believe me fellow citizens,) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake; since history and experience prove, that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy, to be useful, must be impartial, else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike for another, cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious; while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people, to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little *political* connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none, or a very remote relation. Hence, she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon, to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation, when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel.

Why forego the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalry, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at

liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy. I repeat it, therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion, it is unnecessary, and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves by suitable establishments, on a respectable defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, and a liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand; neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce, but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed, in order to give trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them, conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another; that is must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character; that by such acceptance, it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect, or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish; that they will control the usual current of the passions, or prevent our nation from running the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations, but if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good; that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism; this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

How far, in the discharge of my official duties, I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is, that I have, at least, believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April, 1793, is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice, and by that of your representatives in both houses of congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination, with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take, and was bound, in duty and interest, to take a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverance and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct, it is not necessary on

this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without any thing more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions, and to progress, without interruption, to that degree of strength, and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence; and that, after forty-five years of my life dedicated to its service, with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it, which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations; I anticipate with pleasing expectation that in which I promise myself to realize, without alloy, the sweet enjoyment of partaking, in the midst of my fellow citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES,
17th September, 1796.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from northern Virginia [Mr. MORAN].

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleagues and friends, the gentleman from New York [Mr. FLAKE] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], for working with me in a bipartisan way to get this authorization to mint 100,000 gold \$5 coins. They will be minted in 1999, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington, our first President.

I think I can speak for Mr. DAVIS and probably all my colleagues, that getting 290 signatures is not like rolling off a log. This has taken us much of the year, and we would not have done this if it was not of some consequence. Even the fact that the Coin Commission recommended it, it still is difficult to get people's attention to focus on it.

But this is a uniquely important coin because once we reimburse the taxpayers fully for the cost of minting this coin, the Mount Vernon Ladies Association will use the proceeds for the preservation of Mount Vernon, which was George Washington's home in

northern Virginia at the southern end of the parkway. We invite all our colleagues and people listening to visit that beautiful birthplace, the home of George Washington.

The funds will also enhance the ladies association's efforts to educate the American public about George Washington's life. Few people know that this, in fact, is the 200th anniversary of George Washington's farewell address this very day. It still has resonance, it has tremendous profundity, wisdom in that address, but too few people are aware of it. This will enable us to spread that kind of educational information.

Many of our textbooks include now only a small fraction of information about George Washington's life and times. Forty years ago there was a lot about it. But over the years our history textbooks have reduced, more and more, the life of George Washington, and it should not be diminished.

So this is an effort to see to it that it will not be diminished, and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association is going to host a series of programs in conjunction with the bicentennial of Washington's death in 1999. There will be seminars, programs for schoolchildren and adults, construction of two new buildings which will provide the opportunity for people of all ages to learn about George Washington in the context of the 18th century life where he was the most prominent figure.

Proceeds from the sale of these coins will help to finance all these events and ensure that the nearly 1 million visitors who pass through Mount Vernon every year are fully informed about how important George Washington was to the founding of this country.

This commemorative coin, as I say, has been endorsed by the Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee. There is no reason why we should not support this legislation. It is urgent given the particular timing of it. We need to do it now, and certainly we need to give these proceeds to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association to spread information about a man who had a pivotal role in the direction of this country.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I will yield myself a moment or two just to comment on the distinguished gentleman from Virginia's comments on the 290 names. Of course that is all intentional, to make sure that these are worthwhile doing, and I am glad that he and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] had to go to a little bit of effort to do that. It makes us feel that it is at least working in some way or other, but we are very supportive of this legislation. We congratulate both of these gentlemen on the wonderful job they have done.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to thank the gentlemen from Virginia,

Mr. MORAN and Mr. DAVIS, for their work with the committee and allowing us to bring this bill to the floor with the support that it has had.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2026, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BLACK REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1776) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of black revolutionary war patriots, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1776

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Black Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) **\$1 SILVER COINS.**—In commemoration of Black Revolutionary War patriots and the 275th anniversary of the birth of the 1st Black Revolutionary War patriot, Crispus Attucks, who was the 1st American colonist killed by British troops during the Revolutionary period, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 1 dollar coins, each of which shall—

- (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

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

(c) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of section 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 3. SOURCES OF BULLION.

The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins under this Act only from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) **DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The design—

(A) on the obverse side of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 1st Black Revolutionary War patriot, Crispus Attucks; and

(B) on the reverse side of such coins shall be emblematic of the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial.

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

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

(B) an inscription of the year "1998"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

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

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

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

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

(c) **COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January 1, 1998.

(d) **TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.**—No coins may be minted under this Act after December 31, 1998.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

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

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in subsection (d) with respect to such coins; and
- (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

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

(c) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—

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

(2) **DISCOUNT.**—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) **SURCHARGES.**—All sales shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

SEC. 7. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods and services necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(b) **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.**—Subsection (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a contract under the authority of this Act from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.

Subject to section 10(a), all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation for the purpose of raising an endowment to support the construction of a Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial.

SEC. 9. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

(a) **NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.**—The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government.

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

- (1) full payment for the coin;
- (2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to indemnify the United States for full payment; or
- (3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to the Secretary from a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the