

Events of cataclysmic proportion, as well as epic struggles, have long been commemorated on the coinage of various countries. Canada's tombac nickel, for example, issued in 1943, contains a new reverse design from the famous Churchill "V" for victory over the Nazi Axis war machine.

America's circulating coinage is not so different. The heraldic eagles utilized on the reverse of our coinage has had the beak of the eagle pointed, variously, to olive branches of peace, or towards the talons holding arrows of war.

Nonetheless, important historical personages, as well as historic events, have long been common on coinage. That's precisely the reason why the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, a galvanizing event if ever there was one, deserves permanent memorialization on our nation's coinage.

Striking such a coin would permanently memorialize, for all time, the event that occurred, and to offer some numismatic assurance that it will not be forgotten. It affords a permanent memorial to the more than 3,000 innocent victims—a tribute that they richly deserve.

An article suggesting this was published shortly after the events of September 11 in *Numismatic News*, a coin collector's periodical. The author is my Mayor, my neighbor and friend, David L. Ganz, of Fair Lawn, New Jersey. David is a former member of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, and a past president of the American Numismatic Association, and I would like to have the article reprinted in its entirety in the *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.

Mr. Speaker, the events of September 11 call for a distinctive tribute to honor not only those who perished, but also those who remain. I believe that coinage, as it has been for thousands of years, is an appropriate response and urge prompt consideration of the bill introduced today.

[From the *Numismatic News*, Oct. 2, 2001]

PUT WORLD TRADE CENTER ON NEW HALF DOLLAR

(By David L. Ganz)

America's tragedy that is personified by the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, through a vicious, criminal assault on its sovereignty on Sept. 11 in a suicide bombing, is deserving of a lasting tribute.

Coinage, since the time of Caesar, has served the simultaneous purpose of doing the business of commerce and remembering historic events that are worthy of commemoration. In ancient times, coins of that era were utilized to pay homage to the emperors, to celebrate victories on the battlefield.

Two members of Congress, Rep. Elliot Engel, D-N.Y., and J.C. Watts, R-Okla., are evidently planning to introduce legislation creating a "Spirit of America" coin to commemorate the victims of the attacks. Engle, from the Bronx, and Watts, from Oklahoma City, have seen their neighborhoods fall victim to terrorism.

The idea of using the medium of the Caesars to mark our own catastrophe is a good one. Events of cataclysmic proportion, as well as epic struggles, have long been commemorated on the coinage of various countries. Canada's tombac nickel, for example, issued in 1943, contains a new reverse design from the famous Churchill "V" for victory over the Nazi Axis war machine.

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eagle pointed, variously, to olive branches of peace, or towards the talons holding arrows of war.

The heraldic eagle on the reverse of the silver dollar (1798-1804) is one example of this (pointed toward arrows of war), while the Seated Liberty dollar of 1840-1873 had the eagle's head pointed toward olive branches, as does the Morgan dollar (1878-1921).

In the 20th century, the first circulating commemorative was struck for the centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, in 1909. The Annual Report of the Director of the Mint simply noted that, "With the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury the new design for the bronze one-cent coin was adopted in April 1909. On the obverse the head of Lincoln appears instead of the Indian head which this piece had borne since 1864. The engraver of the mint at Philadelphia was instructed to prepare dies and coinage of this piece was commenced in May. . . ."

In March 1931, Congress enacted legislation overturning a portion of the Act of Sept. 26, 1890 (limiting design changes to no more frequently than once in 25 years on circulating coinage) and specifically authorized and directed the Secretary of the Treasury "for the purpose of commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, to change the design of the 25-cent piece so that the portrait of George Washington shall appear on the obverse, with appropriate devices on the reverse. . . ."

Following President Roosevelt's death in 1945, the Mint produced a Roosevelt memorial medal, and also introduced a new circulating commemorative coin design for the dime (dated 1946). Vermeule terms the coin "the logical memorial for Franklin Roosevelt in the regular coinage."

After the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Congress enacted the law of Dec. 30, 1963, directing that the Franklin half be replaced with a design "which shall bear on one side the likeness of the late president of the United States John Fitzgerald Kennedy," a motif which Vermeule terms a "hasty; emotional advent" even though the design is "a tolerable, staidly handsome coin."

The One Bank Holding Company Act of 1970 required a coin to "bear the likeness of the late President of the United States, Dwight David Eisenhower, and on the other side thereof a design which is emblematic of the symbolic eagle of Apollo 11 landing on the moon."

In 1973, Congress passed Public Law 93-127 which directed the Treasury Secretary to commemorate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution with a reverse design change for the quarter dollar, half dollar and dollar coin, all of which were intended for circulation, but of which only the quarter dollar really achieved circulation. The colonial drummer boy on the quarter, dated 1776-1976 (and produced in 1975 and 1976 by the Mint) still can be found occasionally in circulation today, a reminder of our Bicentennial celebration a generation ago.

The half dollar (bearing Independence Hall on the reverse), and the dollar (Liberty Bell imposed on the lunar surface) never really achieved circulation. Occasionally, examples of the half are found in circulation. The dollar coin never really entered circulation in the first instance. Collector versions of the coins were struck in silver-clad material, as required by law.

More recently, in 1979, a dollar coin commemorating Susan B. Anthony was produced by the Mint. The reverse was directed to have "a design which is emblematic of the symbolic eagle of Apollo 11 landing on the moon." Its design was identical to that of the Eisenhower dollar authorized in 1970. The coin did achieve partial circulation in some

areas of the country, and in that sense is a circulating commemorative coin, but never achieved general circulation success.

Nonetheless, important historical personages, as well as historical events, have long been common on coinage. That's precisely the reason why the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York, a galvanizing event if ever there was one, deserves permanent memorialization on our coinage.

There is a danger, from the close proximity of headlines, to suggest what will become history. But in the same sense that President Roosevelt termed the attack on Pearl Harbor a day of infamy, so, too, the attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center marks the start of a 21st century war that is unlikely to be over quickly, or events that will be quickly forgotten.

The very metal that the coins are made of is the reason that they should be struck—to permanently memorialize, for all time, the event that occurred, and to offer some numismatic assurance that it will not be forgotten. It affords a permanent memorial to more than 5,000 innocent victims, a tribute that they richly deserve.

Unlike other issues, this one should have no surcharge at all. Even if numismatic versions are authorized, they should be available to the public on the basis of cost plus a modest profit for the Mint.

What should be considered, however, is directing the use of the seigniorage, which, if a half dollar is chosen, would constitute about 46 cents for every coin. If the Mint were to produce 750 million of such coins in a year's time, the seigniorage would be a remarkable down payment on the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, which cost an estimated \$350 million per tower to construct when completed in 1973.

To accomplish this, a bill would have to be introduced in the Senate and House, passed by both chambers, and approved by the President. Modestly, here's my proposal to do just that:

2002 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EXPOSITION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, next week the entire construction and construction materials industries are holding a convention, the CONEXPO-CON/AGG, in Las Vegas, NV. More than 125,000 people are expected to attend and over 2,300 exhibitors covering will show their construction material and equipment in 1.9 billion net square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibit space. This convention is one of the best as it draws contractors and construction materials producers from around the world.

Several organizations associated with these events, are conducting their annual conventions in Las Vegas: The Association of Equipment Manufacturers; the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, the America Road and Transportation Builders Association; the Associated General Contractors of America; the Construction Materials Recycling Association; the Concrete Sawing and Drilling Association; the International Road Federation; the National Fluid Power Association; the National Utility Contractors Association and the Society of Automotive Engineers. I congratulate them for the work they do to keep America moving.

Some important facts about these industries should be noted. The construction industry represents 8 percent of our Nation's gross domestic product and accounts for 5 percent of total U.S. employment. The construction industry puts more than \$850 billion of products in place annually and employs more than 8.6 million people. Even in a recession, the construction and construction materials industries added 63,000 jobs. These numbers are staggering and impressive and result from the very successful TEA 21 Act that funds the federal highway road program.

These are America's builders. Through their hard work, the wilderness that was America was transformed into a stronghold of productivity and commerce.

These groups build our roads and highways, airports, and rail beds—the networks that connect our cities, our communities, and our families. They build our homes, our workplaces, our churches, our schools, and our hospitals.

They build and maintain our utilities, including water and sewer facilities, natural gas pipelines and telecommunications systems. They build these underground lifelines that keep America secure and thriving.

Not only do they build—they rebuild. In the true spirit of America they responded after September 11 by sending manpower, materials, equipment, and money to the New York City World Trade Center and the Pentagon to help heal the wounds inflicted on America by the terrorist attacks. Members of these associations continue their efforts to erase these scars that mar our landscape.

The construction and construction materials industries have built Americans' a quality of life and ensured a prosperous future for our country and its people.

We all take pride in the work these "Builders of America" do every day. On the eve of CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2002, we extend our sincerest thanks and best wishes to the construction and construction materials industries for a successful trade shows that is "An Experience to Build On."

CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, to outlaw certain practices that provide inadequate settlements for class members, to assure that attorneys do not receive a disproportionate amount of settlements at the expense of class members, to provide for clearer and simpler information in class action settlement notices, to assure prompt consideration of interstate class actions, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions, and for other purposes.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Chairman, in an age when corporate wrongdoing is a daily front page headline, now is not the time for

Congress to bend the rules that allow injured consumers and workers access to the civil justice system.

Proponents of H.R. 2341 insist that a class action crisis threatens the well being of U.S. courts this is simply not true. There is no statistical evidence of a class action crisis. In fact, the Federal and State judiciaries have consistently opposed efforts to "federalize" class actions believing that state courts are perfectly capable of handling their own matters without interference from the Federal judiciary. There is simply no need for massive civil justice reform, especially reform like H.R. 2341 that limits the rights of consumers to seek redress against wrongdoers.

Currently, class action suits provide access to justice for thousands of American consumers and small businesses that would otherwise have no realistic means of taking their case to court. Unfortunately this legislation is an attempt to deny American consumers and small businesses by making plaintiffs jump through multiple hurdles to bring class actions, allowing proponents of this bill to accomplish their policy goal at the expense of consumers who have been harmed by corporate wrongdoers.

Today we are given the opportunity to make a clear choice between the legal rights of powerful corporations that break the rules, and the legal rights of the families, retirees and consumers they harm. Today we cannot turn our backs on those who depend on us. Today we must stand up for those who stand the greater harm by opposing H.R. 2341.

CONGRATULATIONS, GIRL SCOUTS, ON 90 YEARS OF WONDERFUL SERVICE

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. In March 1912, Juliette Gordon Low, a visionary from Savannah, GA, formed an organization that has become the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls.

Girl Scouting encourages girls to develop their full potential, to believe in themselves, to respect others, and to make a contribution to the world around them. In an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adults, girls develop qualities that will serve them all of their lives—like strong values, a social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self worth.

The Girl Scout Council of Southeast Louisiana provides a positive impact on our entire region by the services and activities they provide. I salute the adult troop leaders who volunteer their time to serve as role models for the thousands of Girl Scouts in our community. As the father of a Brownie, I see first hand the enjoyment and enrichment that Girl Scouting provides.

Could Juliette Gordon Low have known in 1912 when she sold her pearls to give Girl Scouting financial backing that millions of girls would benefit from her generosity? She would

be proud to know that Girl Scouting is still going strong and shaping lives. Congratulations Girl Scouts on 90 years of wonderful service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "GENOMIC RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2002" H.R. 3967 AND THE "GENOMIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ACT OF 2002" H.R. 3966

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, evidence is mounting that the patenting of human genes is both inhibiting important biomedical research and interfering with patient care. Today I am introducing two bills that address these increasingly troublesome effects of human gene patenting.

Despite resistance from many of our European allies and the popular view in this country that owning the rights to a part of the human body is inappropriate and even immoral, patenting of human genetic sequences is accelerating rapidly. Eight thousand patents on genes or genetic material have already been issued by the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), including at least 1,500 on human genetic material. Tens of thousands of additional human gene patents await examination by the PTO. And while the criteria for awarding gene patents have been marginally tightened in recent years, progress toward patenting of the entire human genetic sequence continues unabated. There is little doubt that most of the significant claims on our genetic code will be tied up as private property within a very few years.

What does it mean to own a human gene patent? It means that the gene patent holder controls any use of "its" gene, a gene that is found in virtually every human being on the planet. The patent holder can prevent my doctor from looking in my body to see if I have that gene. The patent holder can prevent anyone else from doing research to improve a genetic test or to develop a gene therapy based on that gene.

PTO's grant of total ownership in genes has already led to some very unusual moral and medical dilemmas. In one well-publicized case, Miami Children's Hospital—the owner of the gene responsible for the fatal neurological disorder Canavan disease—is being sued by the families of dead and dying children who provided the tissue samples which enabled the hospital's researchers to discover the gene's function. The Canavan parents had sought the help of hospital researchers in order to develop testing that was accessible and affordable to the public. Instead, when Miami Children's Hospital discovered the Canavan gene, it secretly filed a patent and now prevents doctors from testing or examining patients for the gene without paying the hospital a fixed royalty fee, even though those doctors could do so without using any product or device invented by MCH. The Canavan families claim that the terms under which the hospital is licensing use of the gene are slowing progress into finding a cure or therapy for the disease.