

MARK TWAIN COMMEMORATIVE  
COIN ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2453) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Mark Twain, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2453

*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 “Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Samuel Clemens—better known to the world as Mark Twain—was a unique American voice whose literary work has had a lasting effect on our Nation’s history and culture.

(2) Mark Twain remains one of the best known Americans in the world with over 6,500 editions of his books translated into 75 languages.

(3) Mark Twain’s literary and educational legacy remains strong even today, with nearly every book he wrote still in print, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*—both of which have never gone out of print since they were first published over a century ago.

(4) In the past 2 decades alone, there have been more than 100 books published and over 250 doctoral dissertations written on Mark Twain’s life and work.

(5) Even today, Americans seek to know more about the life and work of Mark Twain, as people from around the world and across all 50 States annually flock to National Historic Landmarks like the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, CT, and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal, MO.

(6) Mark Twain’s work is remembered today for addressing the complex social issues facing America at the turn of the century, including the legacy of the Civil War, race relations, and the economic inequalities of the “Gilded Age”.

(7) Today Mark Twain’s work lives on through educational institutions throughout the United States, such as the Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley, California, and the Center for Mark Twain Studies at Elmira College, in Elmira, New York.

**SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

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

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

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

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 350,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) 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 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of Mark Twain.

(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 “2016”; 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 Commission of Fine Arts and the Board of the Mark Twain House and Museum; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage 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) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2016.

**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 section 7(a) 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.

**SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

(1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin; and

(2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

(1) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, to support the continued restoration of the Mark Twain house and grounds, and ensure continuing growth and innovation in museum programming to research, promote and educate on the legacy of Mark Twain.

(2) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the University of California, Berkeley, California, to be used for research and education purposes.

(3) One-quarter of the surcharges, to Elmira College, New York, to be used for research and education purposes.

(4) One-quarter of the surcharges, to the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Missouri, to preserve historical sites related to Mark Twain and help support programs to study and promote his legacy.

(c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have the right to ex-

amine such books, records, documents, and other data of each of the organizations referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (b) as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid under such subsection.

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) each will control 20 minutes.

The recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to urge Members to support H.R. 2453, the Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation will allow the United States Treasury to mint \$1 and \$5 commemorative coins in 2016 in recognition of the important legacy of Mark Twain. Surcharges on the sale of the coins will benefit four institutions that either bear Mark Twain’s name or focus on the study of his work: the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut; the University of California, Berkeley; Elmira College in New York; and in my congressional district, the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Missouri. The sale price of the coins will cover all real and amortized costs of production and marketing costs so that the entire program will be produced at no cost to the taxpayers.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative JOHN LARSON of Connecticut, who first introduced this legislation in the 110th Congress. The gentleman from Connecticut and I share an admiration for Mark Twain, and have made it a priority to see his legislation through. I appreciate his hard work on collecting all the signatures on his side of the aisle.

□ 1700

I would also like to thank the Missouri congressional delegation for their support. When I first announced my intentions to introduce the Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act, all eight of my colleagues immediately came on board to help advance this legislation.

I want to acknowledge the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum, Dr. Cindy Lovell, and the museum's curator, Henry Sweets, as well as their dedicated staff, for their incredible work to promote awareness and the appreciation of the life and works of Mark Twain.

Importantly, I would like to thank Chairman BACHUS, Ranking Member FRANK, Speaker BOEHNER, and Majority Leader CANTOR for their assistance and cooperation in getting the bill scheduled for consideration in this House.

A true American figure, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known to the world as Mark Twain, was born and raised in Missouri amidst the turmoil of the American Civil War. Twain's boyhood home in Hannibal, Missouri, inspired the settings of some of his most beloved stories and helped shape his views on violence and injustice.

The Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal commemorates the childhood of a man who grew up to be one of the most recognized names in literature. The museum opened its doors in 1912 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962. I would also like to recognize the museum for its upcoming 100th anniversary, a milestone which will be celebrated on May 15.

Twain would eventually move to Hartford, Connecticut, where he settled and began to work on what would become his most famous work, "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Hartford is home to the Mark Twain House & Museum, dedicated to educating people across the Nation and around the world about Twain, his works, and the time period in which he lived.

In New York, Elmira College breathes new life into the history of Mark Twain, offering fellowships for research on the author. Elmira College also hosts a Mark Twain conference and provides tours of Twain's study, where he sought refuge to write several short stories and some of his most famous novels. The Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley houses the Mark Twain papers, an extensive archive of virtually every document in Twain's hand known to survive.

The bill we consider today honors the legacy of a great American and will benefit the institutions that continue to spread awareness and educate the public of his great accomplishments and contributions to society. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation, which is cosponsored by 298 of our colleagues.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,

Washington, DC.

Hon. SPENCER BACHUS,  
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BACHUS: I am writing concerning H.R. 2453, the "Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act," which is scheduled for floor action the week of April 16, 2012.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 2453 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and this falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, as part of our ongoing understanding regarding commemorative coin bills and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2453, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CAMP,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, April 13, 2012.

Hon. DAVE CAMP,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP: I am writing in response to your letter regarding H.R. 2453, the Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act, which is scheduled for floor consideration under suspension of the rules on Monday, April 16, 2012.

I wish to confirm our mutual understanding on this bill. As you know, section 7 of the bill establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill. I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in such surcharges as revenue matters and appreciate your willingness to forego action by the Committee on Ways & Means on H.R. 2453 in order to allow the bill to come to the Floor expeditiously. Also, I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. Therefore, I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include this exchange of letters in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance and if you should need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie McGarry of my staff at 202-225-7502.

Sincerely,

SPENCER BACHUS,  
Chairman.

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

I want to recognize the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) for his efforts on this meaningful legislation.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2453, the Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act. This legislation calls for the U.S. Mint to produce a coin in 2016—I state, in 2016—designed to honor Mark Twain's contribution to American history. William Faulkner once called Mark Twain "the father of American literature."

One of America's most beloved authors, Mark Twain's life and legacy

have left a lasting mark on our Nation. Mark Twain, whose real name is Samuel Clemens, was beloved by many for his wit and sharp satire. Twain worked as a steamboat pilot and a reporter before finding success as a writer.

His hometown of Hannibal, Missouri, later became the setting for his most famous novels, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," which all of us have seen throughout our lives as young kids. We still love seeing it every time we see this. Twain's other well-known works of fiction include "The Prince and the Pauper" and "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."

H.R. 2453 directs the U.S. Mint to produce a \$1 and a \$5 commemorative coin in 2016 and, I state, at no cost to the taxpayers. The simple price of the coin will cover the cost of production. In addition, the sale of the coin will generate revenue for the benefit of four of Mark Twain's institutions: the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut; the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley; Elmira College in New York; and the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Missouri.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible legislation as the recognition of one of America's greatest authors and humorists, Mark Twain.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers at this time, and continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Connecticut, JOHN LARSON, one of our leaders.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Thank you, Mr. BACA of California, and I thank the Hartford-Hannibal connection. I want to thank Representative LUETKEMEYER for his tireless work and effort in making this bill possible for the great institutions that both he and Representative BACA have illuminated and to stand here today and talk about the literary genius of Mark Twain and to see the institutions that will benefit from this—and, as Representative BACA points out, at no cost to the American public—enriching Americans all across this great Nation, I daresay around the globe, from the visits at these great institutions, whether it be in Hartford, whether it be in Hannibal, whether it be in Elmira or at Berkeley in California, all of whom will benefit directly from Mark Twain.

I'm glad that we're having a voice vote, because I wouldn't want to put what Mark Twain had to say about Members of Congress to a test here on the floor. But as my good friend and colleague JOE BACA has pointed out, the great works of Mark Twain stand throughout the ages. Of course, there's nary a person who hasn't read "Huckleberry Finn" or "Tom Sawyer" and, as mentioned, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." Well,

we like to refer to it as, “A Connecticut Red Sock in King Arthur’s Court.”

But, nonetheless I, would be remiss if I didn’t thank Jeffrey Nichols, the executive director at the Mark Twain House in Hartford, Connecticut, and those on the entire board there, who have worked tirelessly to make sure that we are able to perpetuate the great legacy of Mark Twain in his literature, in his humor and his satire. It is a gift for the country that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy.

Just this last year, the house adjoining the Twain house in Hartford is the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe, and we had the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who came to Hartford to participate in a discussion about race. Of course, even today, as both Mark Twain and the whole issue of “Huckleberry Finn” and “Tom Sawyer” continue to come under literary discussion and debate, it also focuses on an important issue that the Nation needs to continue to face, and that’s the whole issue of humanity as it relates to how man deals with man and the whole issue of racism. There was no stronger proponent in this Nation than Samuel Clemens. Mark Twain was just incredible in terms of his gift, his literary genius, a great ambassador abroad for this country, and heralded on this shore and all across the globe as a humanitarian, and we are so proud.

I again want to thank Representative LUETKEMEYER for his efforts to make this possible. I know that in Hartford and in Hannibal, Elmira, and Berkeley, people are very pleased that this will continue to benefit them and allow this great treasure in this great person of literature, American literature, to continue to enjoy the vast reputation and legacy that all Americans ought to enjoy.

Mr. BACA. I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to close with a few thoughts here.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for his hard work in helping to put this together, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. BACA) for his help today.

It’s interesting. When I was the director of tourism for the State of Missouri, we found out just how big an icon Mr. Twain was. Mark Twain not only is an icon who is recognized around the United States, but he is one of the few icons that people from other countries recognize about our country.

□ 1710

If you travel to Hannibal, Missouri, you can see the influence in the surroundings there and the stories that he told, and what kind of an influence it had on him as a youth and the stories as they unfolded. It’s quite something.

Again, with that, 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 Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2453, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ) at 6 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3001, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 4040, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H.R. 1815 and H.R. 2453 will resume later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### RAOUL WALLENBERG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3001) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:

[Roll No. 152]

YEAS—377

Ackerman	Doyle	Lamborn
Adams	Dreier	Lance
Aderholt	Duffy	Langevin
Akin	Duncan (SC)	Lankford
Alexander	Duncan (TN)	Larsen (WA)
Altmire	Ellison	Larson (CT)
Amash	Ellmers	Latham
Amodei	Emerson	LaTourette
Baca	Engel	Latta
Bachmann	Eshoo	Lee (CA)
Bachus	Farenthold	Levin
Baldwin	Farr	Lewis (GA)
Barletta	Fattah	Lipinski
Barrow	Fincher	LoBiondo
Bartlett	Fitzpatrick	Loebsack
Bass (CA)	Flake	Lofgren, Zoe
Bass (NH)	Fleischmann	Long
Becerra	Fleming	Lowey
Benishek	Flores	Lucas
Berg	Forbes	Luetkemeyer
Berkley	Fortenberry	Lujan
Berman	Fox	Lummis
Biggert	Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel E.
Bilbray	Fudge	Lynch
Bilirakis	Gallely	Mack
Bishop (GA)	Garamendi	Malden
Bishop (NY)	Gardner	Maloney
Bishop (UT)	Garrett	Manzullo
Black	Gerlach	Marchant
Blackburn	Gibbs	Markey
Blumenauer	Gibson	Matheson
Bonamici	Gingrey (GA)	Matsui
Bonner	Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)
Bono Mack	Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)
Boswell	Goodlatte	McCauley
Boustany	Gosar	McClintock
Brady (PA)	Gowdy	McCollum
Brady (TX)	Granger	McCotter
Braley (IA)	Graves (GA)	McDermott
Brooks	Graves (MO)	McGovern
Brown (GA)	Green, Al	McHenry
Brown (FL)	Green, Gene	McKeon
Buchanan	Griffin (AR)	McKinley
Bucshon	Griffith (VA)	McMorris
Buerkle	Grimm	Rodgers
Burton (IN)	Guinta	McNerney
Calvert	Guthrie	Meehan
Camp	Hahn	Meeks
Canseco	Hall	Mica
Cantor	Hanabusa	Michaud
Capito	Harper	Miller (MI)
Capps	Harris	Miller (NC)
Capuano	Hartzler	Miller, Gary
Cardoza	Hastings (FL)	Miller, George
Carnahan	Hastings (WA)	Moore
Carney	Hayworth	Moran
Carson (IN)	Heck	Mulvaney
Carter	Heinrich	Murphy (PA)
Castor (FL)	Hensarling	Myrick
Chabot	Herger	Nadler
Chaffetz	Herrera Beutler	Neal
Chandler	Higgins	Neugebauer
Chu	Himes	Nugent
Ciulline	Hinojosa	Nunes
Clarke (MI)	Hirono	Nuneelee
Clarke (NY)	Hochul	Olson
Clay	Holden	Olver
Cleaver	Holt	Owens
Clyburn	Honda	Palazzo
Coble	Hoyer	Pallone
Coffman (CO)	Huelskamp	Pastor (AZ)
Cole	Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen
Conaway	Hultgren	Pearce
Connolly (VA)	Hunter	Pelosi
Conyers	Hurt	Pence
Cooper	Israel	Peters
Costa	Issa	Peterson
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Petri
Cravaack	Jackson Lee	Pingree (ME)
Crawford	(TX)	Pitts
Crowley	Jenkins	Platts
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Poe (TX)
Davis (CA)	Johnson (OH)	Polis
Davis (IL)	Johnson, E. B.	Pompeo
Davis (KY)	Jordan	Posey
DeFazio	Keating	Price (GA)
DeGette	Kelly	Price (NC)
DeLauro	Kildee	Quayle
Denham	Kind	Quigley
Dent	King (IA)	Rahall
DesJarlais	King (NY)	Reed
Deutch	Kingston	Reberg
Diaz-Balart	Kinziger (IL)	Reichert
Dingell	Kissell	Renacci
Dold	Kline	Reyes
Donnelly (IN)	Kucinich	Ribble