

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 754

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2017

Mr. STEWART (for himself and Ms. MENG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Anwar Sadat Centen-
5 nial Celebration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Anwar Sadat was born on December 25,
2 1918, in Mit Abu al-Kum, al-Minufiyah, Egypt, as
3 1 of 13 children in a poor Egyptian family.

4 (2) In 1938, Sadat graduated from the Royal
5 Military Academy in Cairo and was appointed to the
6 Signal Corps.

7 (3) Sadat entered the Army as a second lieuten-
8 ant and was posted to Sudan where he met Gamal
9 Abdel Nasser and fellow junior officers who became
10 the “Free Officers” who led the Egyptian revolution
11 of 1952.

12 (4) Sadat held various high positions during
13 Nasser’s presidency, assuming the role of President
14 of the National Assembly in 1960 and Vice Presi-
15 dent in 1964.

16 (5) President Nasser died of a heart attack on
17 September 28, 1970, at which point Sadat became
18 acting President. Sadat was subsequently elected as
19 the third President of Egypt.

20 (6) On October 6, 1973, President Sadat, along
21 with his Syrian counterparts, launched an offensive
22 against Israel. A permanent cease-fire was reached
23 on October 25, 1973.

24 (7) In 1974, after talks facilitated by Secretary
25 of State Henry Kissinger, Egypt and Israel signed

1 an agreement allowing Egypt to formally retrieve
2 land in the Sinai. President Sadat later wrote in his
3 memoirs that his meetings with Kissinger “marked
4 the beginning of a relationship of mutual under-
5 standing with the United States culminating and
6 crystallizing in what we came to describe as a ‘peace
7 process’. Together we started that process and the
8 United States still supports our joint efforts to this
9 day”.

10 (8) Months of diplomacy between Egypt and
11 Israel followed the signing of this initial agreement
12 and a second disengagement agreement, the Sinai
13 Interim Agreement, was signed in September of
14 1975.

15 (9) President Sadat addressed a joint session of
16 Congress on November 5, 1975, during which he un-
17 derscored the shared values between the United
18 States and Egypt. In this speech, President Sadat
19 addressed the path to peace, saying, “We are faced,
20 together with other nations, with one of the greatest
21 challenges of our time, namely the task of convincing
22 this generation, and those to follow, that we can fi-
23 nally build a viable international system capable of
24 meeting the demands of tomorrow and solving the
25 problems of the coming age”.

1 (10) On November 19, 1977, President Sadat
2 became the first Arab leader to visit Israel, meeting
3 with the Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin.
4 President Sadat spoke before the Israeli Knesset in
5 Jerusalem about his views on how to achieve com-
6 prehensive peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

7 (11) Before commencing negotiations, President
8 Sadat courageously announced to the Knesset, “I
9 have come to you so that together we might build a
10 durable peace based on justice, to avoid the shedding
11 of 1 single drop of blood from an Arab or an Israeli.
12 It is for this reason that I have proclaimed my read-
13 iness to go to the farthest corner of the world”.
14 President Sadat further poignantly stated that “any
15 life lost in war is a human life, irrespective of its
16 being that of an Israeli or an Arab. . . . When the
17 bells of peace ring, there will be no hands to beat
18 the drums of war”.

19 (12) On September 17, 1978, President Jimmy
20 Carter hosted President Sadat and Prime Minister
21 Begin at Camp David where the 3 leaders engaged
22 in 13 days of negotiations that resulted in the
23 “Framework for Peace in the Middle East” (com-
24 monly known as the “Camp David Accords”).

1 (13) Following negotiations, President Sadat
2 and Prime Minister Begin signed the Egypt-Israel
3 Peace Treaty (in this section referred to as the
4 “Peace Treaty”) at the White House on March 26,
5 1979. Addressing President Sadat at the signing of
6 the Peace Treaty, which remains an important an-
7 chor for peace in the region today, Prime Minister
8 Begin commended President Sadat by saying, “In
9 the face of adversity and hostility, you have dem-
10 onstrated the human value that can change his-
11 tory—civil courage”.

12 (14) The Peace Treaty featured mutual rec-
13 ognition of each country by the other and ultimately
14 the cessation of the state of war that had existed be-
15 tween Israel and Egypt since the 1948 Arab-Israeli
16 War. Israel completely withdrew its armed forces
17 and civilians from the rest of the Sinai.

18 (15) In 1978, both President Sadat and Prime
19 Minister Begin were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize
20 for signing the Peace Treaty, which made Egypt the
21 first Arab country to officially recognize Israel.

22 (16) While presenting the Nobel Peace Prize to
23 President Sadat, Aase Lionaes, Chairman of the
24 Norwegian Nobel Committee, said, “During the 30
25 preceding years, the peoples of the Middle East

1 have, on 4 separate occasions, been the victims of
2 warfare and there seemed no prospect of peace.
3 President Sadat's great contribution to peace was
4 that he had sufficient courage and foresight to break
5 away from this vicious circle. His decision to accept
6 Prime Minister Menachem Begin's invitation of No-
7 vember 17, 1977, to attend a meeting of the Israeli
8 parliament on November 19 was an act of great
9 courage, both from a personal and from a political
10 point of view. This was a dramatic break with the
11 past and a courageous step forward into a new age".

12 (17) During his Nobel lecture, President Sadat
13 remarked, "I made my trip because I am convinced
14 that we owe it to this generation and the generations
15 to come not to leave a stone unturned in our pursuit
16 of peace".

17 (18) In remarks to the People's Assembly in
18 Cairo on March 10, 1979, President Carter praised
19 President Sadat, telling the Assembly, "Your Presi-
20 dent has demonstrated the power of human courage
21 and human vision to create hope where there had
22 been only despair.". President Carter also said that
23 the Peace Treaty would "strengthen cooperation be-
24 tween Egypt and the United States" and under-
25 scored the support of the United States for the

1 agreement, saying, “I fully share and will support
2 President Sadat’s belief that stability must be main-
3 tained in this part of the world . . . He and I recog-
4 nize that the security of this vital region is being
5 challenged. I applaud his determination to meet that
6 challenge, and my Government will stand with him”.

7 (19) The signing of the Peace Treaty enraged
8 many individuals who opposed normalized relations
9 with Israel. President Sadat was assassinated on Oc-
10 tober 6, 1981, by Khalid Islambouli, a member of
11 Egyptian Islamic Jihad. President Sadat was well
12 aware of the controversy to which his actions would
13 lead, but pushed for peace anyway.

14 (20) Upon the death of President Sadat, Presi-
15 dent Ronald Reagan proclaimed, “President Sadat
16 was a courageous man whose vision and wisdom
17 brought nations and people together. In a world
18 filled with hatred, he was a man of hope. In a world
19 trapped in the animosities of the past, he was a man
20 of foresight, a man who sought to improve a world
21 tormented by malice and pettiness”.

22 (21) President Sadat is recognized in the
23 United States and throughout the world as a re-
24 spected leader and champion of peace whose vision
25 provided a roadmap for the peaceful resolution of

1 conflict that endures nearly 40 years after its incep-
2 tion.

3 (22) President Sadat bravely reached out to
4 Israel and dedicated himself to peace, furthering the
5 national security of Egypt and the stability of the
6 Middle East.

7 (23) On the 30th anniversary of the Peace
8 Treaty, President Barack Obama praised the endur-
9 ing legacy of the Camp David Accords and the
10 “courage and foresight of these leaders, who stood
11 together in unity to change the course of our shared
12 history”. President Obama closed by saying,
13 “Today, as we seek to expand the circle of peace
14 among Arabs and Israelis, we take inspiration from
15 what Israel and Egypt achieved 3 decades ago,
16 knowing that the destination is worthy of the strug-
17 gle”.

18 (24) The Camp David Accords and the Peace
19 Treaty continue to serve the interests of the United
20 States by preserving peace and serving as a founda-
21 tion for partnership and dialogue in a region fraught
22 with conflict and division.

23 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

24 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
25 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore

1 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
2 posthumous award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal
3 of appropriate design to Anwar Sadat in recognition of
4 his achievements and heroic actions to attain comprehen-
5 sive peace in the Middle East.

6 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
7 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
8 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
9 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
10 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

11 (c) PRESENTATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The gold medal referred to
13 in subsection (a) shall be presented to—

14 (A)(i) the widow of Anwar Sadat, Jehan
15 Sadat; or

16 (ii) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next
17 of kin of Jehan Sadat; and

18 (B) a representative of the Government of
19 Egypt.

20 (2) AWARD OF MEDAL.—Following the presen-
21 tation described in paragraph (1), the gold medal
22 shall be given to—

23 (A) Jehan Sadat; or

24 (B) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next
25 of kin of Jehan Sadat.

1 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
3 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 under
4 such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price
5 sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, mate-
6 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and
7 the cost of the gold medal.

8 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under
10 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
11 of title 31, United States Code.

12 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
13 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
14 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
15 items.

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