

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1718

To authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2017

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CASIDY, and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the minting of a coin in honor of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and for other purposes.

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 “75th Anniversary of
5 the End of World War II Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the United States entered World War II as
9 a result of the surprise Japanese attack against our

1 fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7,
2 1941, which killed 2,403 people of the United
3 States;

4 (2) the United States joined the wartime Allied
5 cause against the militarist, fascist, and racist dicta-
6 torships of Germany, Japan, and Italy (the Axis),
7 fighting for President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four
8 Freedoms” (freedom of speech, of worship, from
9 want, and from fear);

10 (3) the United States placed no more than
11 16,000,000 of its citizens into uniform in the course
12 of the struggle, enduring a string of early defeats,
13 recovering to conduct a total war on land, sea, and
14 air, and eventually establishing total dominance over
15 its enemies;

16 (4) the war took the lives of 405,399 United
17 States military personnel, fellow citizens who made
18 the supreme sacrifice in a perilous moment in the
19 history of the United States, giving their lives for
20 the cause of democracy and peace;

21 (5) the conflict led to a comprehensive trans-
22 formation of the home front from a civilian economy
23 dedicated to peacetime production into the mightiest
24 engine of military might in human history (labeled
25 the “Arsenal of Democracy”), demanding the par-

1 participation of the entire citizenry and thus leading to
2 increased opportunities for racial minorities and
3 women;

4 (6) the war ended on September 2, 1945, after
5 the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, Fas-
6 cist Italy, and Imperial Japan, and a total victory
7 for the United States and the Allies;

8 (7) Allied victory in World War II transformed
9 the United States into the leader of the “free
10 world,” a community of countries dedicated to demo-
11 cratic principles and to resisting all forms of tyr-
12 anny, including authoritarian, militarist, or com-
13 munist, and an international order founded on open
14 societies, liberal economies, and the peaceful resolu-
15 tion of disputes;

16 (8) participation in the wartime struggle
17 emboldened women, African Americans and other
18 previously marginalized groups to seek equal rights,
19 encouraged the growth of the civil rights movement,
20 and thus contributed to the development of “a more
21 perfect union,” guaranteeing freedom, justice, and
22 equality for all;

23 (9) the generation of United States citizens who
24 fought World War II is passing away with the
25 march of time, and that therefore the urgent need

1 to give honor to those who served is all the more
2 critical; and

3 (10) the period from May 8, 2020, to Sep-
4 tember 2, 2020, will mark the 75th anniversary of
5 the end of the involvement of the United States in
6 World War II and the surrender of Nazi Germany
7 and Imperial Japan, respectively.

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

9 (a) \$5 GOLD COINS.—The Secretary of the Treasury
10 (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and
11 issue not more than 50,000 \$5 coins in commemoration
12 of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, each
13 of which shall—

- 14 (1) weigh 8.359 grams;
15 (2) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and
16 (3) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

17 (b) \$1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary shall mint and
18 issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins in commemoration
19 of the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II, each
20 of which shall—

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

24 (c) HALF DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—The Secretary
25 shall mint and issue not more than 750,000 half dollar

1 clad coins in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of
2 the end of World War II, each of which shall—

3 (1) weigh 11.34 grams;

4 (2) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

5 (3) be minted to the specifications for half dol-
6 lar coins contained in section 5112 (b) of title 31,
7 United States Code.

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

11 (e) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of sections
12 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins
13 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
14 matic items.

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

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The design of the coins minted
17 under this Act shall be emblematic of the great sacrifices
18 made by millions of people of the United States 75 years
19 ago to bring a victorious end to World War II.

20 (b) **DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.**—On each coin
21 minted under this Act, there shall be—

22 (1) a designation of the value of the coin;

23 (2) an inscription of the year “2020”; and

1 (3) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In
2 God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and
3 “E Pluribus Unum”.

4 (c) DESIGN.—On each coin minted under this Act,
5 there shall be a representation of the World War II Vic-
6 tory Medal, awarded to all 16 million United States mili-
7 tary personnel who served from December 7, 1941, to De-
8 cember 31, 1946.

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

11 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation
12 with The National WWII Museum and the Commis-
13 sion of Fine Arts; and

14 (2) reviewed by the Citizens of Coinage Advi-
15 sory Committee.

16 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

22 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
23 issue coins under this Act only during the period begin-
24 ning on January 1, 2020, and ending on December 31,
25 2020.

1 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

4 (1) the face value of the coins;

5 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7 with re-
6 spect to such coins; and

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

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

13 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

17 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
18 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
19 sonable discount.

20 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this
22 Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

23 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

24 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

25 (3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half dol-
26 lar coin.

1 (4) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$1 coin
2 described under section 3(d).

3 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
4 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
5 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
6 shall be paid to the congressionally designated The Na-
7 tional WWII Museum Inc. to fund its educational mission
8 of telling the story of the United States experience in
9 World War II.

10 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United
11 States shall have the right to examine such books, records,
12 documents, and other data of The National WWII Mu-
13 seum Inc. as may be related to the expenditures of
14 amounts paid under subsection (b).

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

1 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

4 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
5 will not result in any net cost to the United States
6 Government; and

7 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
8 are disbursed to any recipient designated in section
9 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of
10 the coins authorized by this Act (including labor,
11 materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses,
12 marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United
13 States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m)
14 and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

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