

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1596

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## AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Greatest Generation  
3 Commemorative Coin Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The National World War II Memorial was  
7 dedicated in Washington, DC, on May 29, 2004, and  
8 is located on the east end of the Reflecting Pool on  
9 the National Mall, opposite the Lincoln Memorial  
10 and west of the Washington Monument.

11 (2) The dedication of the National World War  
12 II Memorial was the culmination of a 17-year effort  
13 that started on December 10, 1987 when the World  
14 War II Memorial Act was first introduced in the  
15 House of Representatives, and was authorized by an  
16 Act of Congress signed into law on May 25, 1993.  
17 Construction began September 4, 2001, after several  
18 years of fundraising and public hearings.

19 (3) Opening to the public on April 29, 2004,  
20 the World War II Memorial is the first national me-  
21 morial dedicated to all who served during World  
22 War II and acknowledges the commitment and  
23 achievement of the entire Nation.

24 (4) The Memorial honors the more than  
25 16,000,000 who served in the Armed Forces of the  
26 United States during World War II, the more than

1 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported  
2 the war effort from home.

3 (5) It is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice,  
4 and commitment of the American people to the com-  
5 mon defense of the Nation and to the broader causes  
6 of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the  
7 world.

8 (6) Today, the Memorial is a top destination for  
9 millions of annual visitors from all over the country  
10 and the world. For many young visitors, their visit  
11 to the Memorial is a first glimpse to a grateful Na-  
12 tion's remembrance of the sacrifices made by the  
13 World War II generation.

14 (7) For World War II veterans, the Memorial  
15 is a special destination, a rendezvous point, and a  
16 gathering place for reunions and commemoration  
17 programs.

18 (8) The Friends of the National World War II  
19 Memorial play a vital role in the preservation and  
20 maintenance of the National World War II Memorial  
21 as a treasure for the American people, while helping  
22 to facilitate key commemorative and educational pro-  
23 grams at the Memorial to pay tribute to America's  
24 "Greatest Generation" and their efforts to preserve  
25 liberty for generations to come.

1           (9) The National World War II Memorial  
2 stands as an important symbol of America’s national  
3 unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and  
4 power that flows when free people are at once united  
5 and bonded together in a common and just cause for  
6 liberty.

7 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

8           (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
9 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)  
10 shall mint and issue the following coin:

11           (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5  
12 coins, which shall—

13                   (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

14                   (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

15                   (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

16           (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000  
17 \$1 coins, which shall—

18                   (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

19                   (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

20                   (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

21           (3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more  
22 than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

23                   (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

24                   (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

1                   (C) be minted to the specifications for half-  
2                   dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title  
3                   31, United States Code.

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

7           (c) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of sections  
8 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
9 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
10 matic items.

11 **SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.**

12           (a) **DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.**—

13                   (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The designs of the coins  
14 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the  
15 National World War II Memorial and the service  
16 and sacrifice of American soldiers and civilians dur-  
17 ing World War II.

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

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

21                           (B) an inscription of the year “2024”; and

22                           (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,

23                           “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
24                           ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

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

3 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
4 with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Friends  
5 of the National World War II Memorial; and

6 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
7 Committee.

8 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

11 (b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may  
12 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
13 period beginning on January 1, 2024.

14 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

18 (1) the face value of the coins;

19 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with  
20 respect to such coins; and

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

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

4 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

11 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

14 (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

15 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

16 (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

17 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
18 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
19 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
20 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Friends  
21 of the National World War II Memorial to support the  
22 National Park Service in maintaining and repairing the  
23 National World War II Memorial, and for educational and  
24 commemorative programs.

1 (c) AUDITS.—The Friends of the National World  
2 War II Memorial shall be subject to the audit require-  
3 ments of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States  
4 Code, with regard to the amounts received under sub-  
5 section (b).

6 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
7 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
8 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
9 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
10 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
11 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2  
12 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under  
13 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in  
14 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-  
15 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out  
16 this subsection.

17 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

20 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act  
21 will not result in any net cost to the United States  
22 Government; and

23 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,  
24 shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-  
25 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing



1 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including  
2 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-  
3 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the  
4 United States Treasury, consistent with sections  
5 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States  
6 Code.

Passed the Senate May 16, 2022.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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