

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.

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## 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

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## 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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