

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 266

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Anwar Sadat was born on December 25,  
7 1918, in Mit Abu al-Kum, al-Minufiyah, Egypt, as  
8 1 of 13 children in a poor Egyptian family.

9 (2) In 1938, Sadat graduated from the Royal  
10 Military Academy in Cairo and was appointed to the  
11 Signal Corps.

12 (3) Sadat entered the Army as a second lieuten-  
13 ant and was posted to Sudan where he met Gamal  
14 Abdel Nasser and fellow junior officers who became  
15 the “Free Officers” who led the Egyptian revolution  
16 of 1952.

17 (4) Sadat held various high positions during  
18 Nasser’s presidency, assuming the role of President  
19 of the National Assembly in 1960 and Vice Presi-  
20 dent in 1964.

21 (5) President Nasser died of a heart attack on  
22 September 28, 1970, at which point Sadat became  
23 acting President. Sadat was subsequently elected as  
24 the third President of Egypt.

25 (6) On October 6, 1973, President Sadat, along  
26 with his Syrian counterparts, launched an offensive

1       against Israel. A permanent cease-fire was reached  
2       on October 25, 1973.

3               (7) In 1974, after talks facilitated by Secretary  
4       of State Henry Kissinger, Egypt and Israel signed  
5       an agreement allowing Egypt to formally retrieve  
6       land in the Sinai. President Sadat later wrote in his  
7       memoirs that his meetings with Kissinger “marked  
8       the beginning of a relationship of mutual under-  
9       standing with the United States culminating and  
10      crystallizing in what we came to describe as a ‘peace  
11      process’. Together we started that process and the  
12      United States still supports our joint efforts to this  
13      day”.

14              (8) Months of diplomacy between Egypt and  
15      Israel followed the signing of this initial agreement  
16      and a second disengagement agreement, the Sinai  
17      Interim Agreement, was signed in September of  
18      1975.

19              (9) President Sadat addressed a joint session of  
20      Congress on November 5, 1975, during which he un-  
21      derscored the shared values between the United  
22      States and Egypt. In this speech, President Sadat  
23      addressed the path to peace, saying, “We are faced,  
24      together with other nations, with one of the greatest  
25      challenges of our time, namely the task of convincing

1 this generation, and those to follow, that we can fi-  
2 nally build a viable international system capable of  
3 meeting the demands of tomorrow and solving the  
4 problems of the coming age”.

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

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

23 (12) On September 17, 1978, President Jimmy  
24 Carter hosted President Sadat and Prime Minister  
25 Begin at Camp David where the 3 leaders engaged

1 in 13 days of negotiations that resulted in the  
2 “Framework for Peace in the Middle East” (com-  
3 monly known as the “Camp David Accords”).

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

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

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

1           (16) While presenting the Nobel Peace Prize to  
2           President Sadat, Aase Lionaes, Chairman of the  
3           Norwegian Nobel Committee, said, “During the 30  
4           preceding years, the peoples of the Middle East  
5           have, on 4 separate occasions, been the victims of  
6           warfare and there seemed no prospect of peace.  
7           President Sadat’s great contribution to peace was  
8           that he had sufficient courage and foresight to break  
9           away from this vicious circle. His decision to accept  
10          Prime Minister Menachem Begin’s invitation of No-  
11          vember 17, 1977, to attend a meeting of the Israeli  
12          parliament on November 19 was an act of great  
13          courage, both from a personal and from a political  
14          point of view. This was a dramatic break with the  
15          past and a courageous step forward into a new age”.

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

21          (18) In remarks to the People’s Assembly in  
22          Cairo on March 10, 1979, President Carter praised  
23          President Sadat, telling the Assembly, “Your Presi-  
24          dent has demonstrated the power of human courage  
25          and human vision to create hope where there had

1     been only despair.”. President Carter also said that  
2     the Peace Treaty would “strengthen cooperation be-  
3     tween Egypt and the United States” and under-  
4     scored the support of the United States for the  
5     agreement, saying, “I fully share and will support  
6     President Sadat’s belief that stability must be main-  
7     tained in this part of the world . . . He and I recog-  
8     nize that the security of this vital region is being  
9     challenged. I applaud his determination to meet that  
10    challenge, and my Government will stand with him”.

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

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

1           (21) President Sadat is recognized in the  
2           United States and throughout the world as a re-  
3           spected leader and champion of peace whose vision  
4           provided a roadmap for the peaceful resolution of  
5           conflict that endures nearly 40 years after its incep-  
6           tion.

7           (22) President Sadat bravely reached out to  
8           Israel and dedicated himself to peace, furthering the  
9           national security of Egypt and the stability of the  
10          Middle East.

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

22          (24) The Camp David Accords and the Peace  
23          Treaty continue to serve the interests of the United  
24          States by preserving peace and serving as a founda-



1       tion for partnership and dialogue in a region fraught  
2       with conflict and division.

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

4       (a) **AWARD AUTHORIZED.**—The Speaker of the  
5 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore  
6 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the  
7 posthumous award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal  
8 of appropriate design to Anwar Sadat in recognition of  
9 his achievements and heroic actions to attain compre-  
10 sive peace in the Middle East.

11       (b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For the purpose of the  
12 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
13 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall  
14 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and  
15 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

16       (c) **PRESENTATION.**—

17               (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The gold medal referred to  
18 in subsection (a) shall be presented to—

19                       (A)(i) the widow of Anwar Sadat, Jehan  
20                       Sadat; or

21                       (ii) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next  
22                       of kin of Jehan Sadat; and

23                       (B) a representative of the Government of  
24                       Egypt.

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

4                     (A) Jehan Sadat; or

5                     (B) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next  
6           of kin of Jehan Sadat.

7 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

8           The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
9           bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 under  
10          such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price  
11          sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, mate-  
12          rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and  
13          the cost of the gold medal.

14 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

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

18          (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
19          5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals

1 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic  
2 items.

Passed the Senate August 22, 2018.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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