

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1596

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2021

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. THUNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Greatest Generation  
5 Memorial Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The National World War II Memorial was  
2           dedicated in Washington, DC, on May 29, 2004, and  
3           is located on the east end of the Reflecting Pool on  
4           the National Mall, opposite the Lincoln Memorial  
5           and west of the Washington Monument.

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

14          (3) Opening to the public on April 29, 2004,  
15          the World War II Memorial is the first national me-  
16          morial dedicated to all who served during World  
17          War II and acknowledges the commitment and  
18          achievement of the entire Nation.

19          (4) The Memorial honors the more than  
20          16,000,000 who served in the Armed Forces of the  
21          United States during World War II, the more than  
22          400,000 who died, and the millions who supported  
23          the war effort from home.

24          (5) It is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice,  
25          and commitment of the American people to the com-

1 mon defense of the Nation and to the broader causes  
2 of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the  
3 world.

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

10 (7) For World War II veterans, the Memorial  
11 is a special destination, a rendezvous point, and a  
12 gathering place for reunions and commemoration  
13 programs.

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

22 (9) The National World War II Memorial  
23 stands as an important symbol of America's national  
24 unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and  
25 power that flows when free people are at once united

1 and bonded together in a common and just cause for  
2 liberty.

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

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

7 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5  
8 coins, which shall—

9 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

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

12 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000  
13 \$1 coins, which shall—

14 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

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

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

19 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

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

21 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-  
22 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title  
23 31, United States Code.

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

4 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
5 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
6 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
7 matic items.

8 **SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.**

9 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

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

15 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On  
16 each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

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

18 (B) an inscription of the year “2023”; and

19 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
20 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
21 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

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

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

4           (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
5           Committee.

6 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

9           (b) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may  
10          issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
11          period beginning on January 1, 2023.

12 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

16                 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

22          (b) **BULK SALES.**—The Secretary shall make bulk  
23          sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable  
24          discount.

25          (c) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—

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

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

7 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

10           (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

11           (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

12           (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

15 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act  
16 will not result in any net cost to the United States  
17 Government; and

18 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,  
19 shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-  
20 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing  
21 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including  
22 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-  
23 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the  
24 United States Treasury, consistent with sections



1       5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States  
2       Code.

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