

Calendar No. 585

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 754

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

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,*

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:

8 (1) Anwar Sadat was born on December 25,
9 1918, in Mit Abu al-Kum, al-Minufiyah, Egypt, as
10 1 of 13 children in a poor Egyptian family.

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

4 (3) Sadat entered the Army as a second lieuten-
5 ant and was posted to Sudan where he met Gamal
6 Abdel Nasser and fellow junior officers who became
7 the “Free Officers” who led the Egyptian revolution
8 of 1952.

9 (4) Sadat held various high positions during
10 Nasser’s presidency, assuming the role of President
11 of the National Assembly in 1960 and Vice Presi-
12 dent in 1964.

13 (5) President Nasser died of a heart attack on
14 September 28, 1970, at which point Sadat became
15 acting President. Sadat was subsequently elected as
16 the third President of Egypt.

17 (6) On October 6, 1973, President Sadat, along
18 with his Syrian counterparts, launched an offensive
19 against Israel. A permanent cease-fire was reached
20 on October 25, 1973.

21 (7) In 1974, after talks facilitated by Secretary
22 of State Henry Kissinger, Egypt and Israel signed
23 an agreement allowing Egypt to formally retrieve
24 land in the Sinai. President Sadat later wrote in his
25 memoirs that his meetings with Kissinger “marked

1 the beginning of a relationship of mutual under-
2 standing with the United States culminating and
3 crystallizing in what we came to describe as a ‘peace
4 process’. Together we started that process and the
5 United States still supports our joint efforts to this
6 day’.

7 (8) Months of diplomacy between Egypt and
8 Israel followed the signing of this initial agreement
9 and a second disengagement agreement, the Sinai
10 Interim Agreement, was signed in September of
11 1975.

12 (9) President Sadat addressed a joint session of
13 Congress on November 5, 1975, during which he un-
14 derscored the shared values between the United
15 States and Egypt. In this speech, President Sadat
16 addressed the path to peace, saying, “We are faced,
17 together with other nations, with one of the greatest
18 challenges of our time, namely the task of convincing
19 this generation, and those to follow, that we can fi-
20 nally build a viable international system capable of
21 meeting the demands of tomorrow and solving the
22 problems of the coming age”.

23 (10) On November 19, 1977, President Sadat
24 became the first Arab leader to visit Israel, meeting
25 with the Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin.

1 President Sadat spoke before the Israeli Knesset in
2 Jerusalem about his views on how to achieve com-
3 prehensive peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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

16 (12) On September 17, 1978, President Jimmy
17 Carter hosted President Sadat and Prime Minister
18 Begin at Camp David where the 3 leaders engaged
19 in 13 days of negotiations that resulted in the
20 “Framework for Peace in the Middle East” (com-
21 monly known as the “Camp David Accords”).

22 (13) Following negotiations, President Sadat
23 and Prime Minister Begin signed the Egypt-Israel
24 Peace Treaty (in this section referred to as the
25 “Peace Treaty”) at the White House on March 26,

1 1979. Addressing President Sadat at the signing of
2 the Peace Treaty, which remains an important an-
3 chor for peace in the region today, Prime Minister
4 Begin commended President Sadat by saying, “In
5 the face of adversity and hostility, you have dem-
6 onstrated the human value that can change his-
7 tory—civil courage”.

8 (14) The Peace Treaty featured mutual rec-
9 ognition of each country by the other and ultimately
10 the cessation of the state of war that had existed be-
11 tween Israel and Egypt since the 1948 Arab-Israeli
12 War. Israel completely withdrew its armed forces
13 and civilians from the rest of the Sinai.

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

18 (16) While presenting the Nobel Peace Prize to
19 President Sadat, Aase Lionaes, Chairman of the
20 Norwegian Nobel Committee, said, “During the 30
21 preceding years, the peoples of the Middle East
22 have, on 4 separate occasions, been the victims of
23 warfare and there seemed no prospect of peace.
24 President Sadat’s great contribution to peace was
25 that he had sufficient courage and foresight to break

1 away from this vicious circle. His decision to accept
2 Prime Minister Menachem Begin’s invitation of No-
3 vember 17, 1977, to attend a meeting of the Israeli
4 parliament on November 19 was an act of great
5 courage, both from a personal and from a political
6 point of view. This was a dramatic break with the
7 past and a courageous step forward into a new age”.

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

13 (18) In remarks to the People’s Assembly in
14 Cairo on March 10, 1979, President Carter praised
15 President Sadat, telling the Assembly, “Your Presi-
16 dent has demonstrated the power of human courage
17 and human vision to create hope where there had
18 been only despair.”. President Carter also said that
19 the Peace Treaty would “strengthen cooperation be-
20 tween Egypt and the United States” and under-
21 scored the support of the United States for the
22 agreement, saying, “I fully share and will support
23 President Sadat’s belief that stability must be main-
24 tained in this part of the world . . . He and I recog-
25 nize that the security of this vital region is being

1 challenged. I applaud his determination to meet that
2 challenge, and my Government will stand with him”.

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

10 (20) Upon the death of President Sadat, Presi-
11 dent Ronald Reagan proclaimed, “President Sadat
12 was a courageous man whose vision and wisdom
13 brought nations and people together. In a world
14 filled with hatred, he was a man of hope. In a world
15 trapped in the animosities of the past, he was a man
16 of foresight, a man who sought to improve a world
17 tormented by malice and pettiness”.

18 (21) President Sadat is recognized in the
19 United States and throughout the world as a re-
20 spected leader and champion of peace whose vision
21 provided a roadmap for the peaceful resolution of
22 conflict that endures nearly 40 years after its incep-
23 tion.

24 (22) President Sadat bravely reached out to
25 Israel and dedicated himself to peace, furthering the

1 national security of Egypt and the stability of the
2 Middle East.

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

14 (24) The Camp David Accords and the Peace
15 Treaty continue to serve the interests of the United
16 States by preserving peace and serving as a founda-
17 tion for partnership and dialogue in a region fraught
18 with conflict and division.

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

20 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
22 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
23 posthumous award, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal
24 of appropriate design to Anwar Sadat in recognition of

1 his achievements and heroic actions to attain comprehen-
2 sive peace in the Middle East.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
4 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
5 Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
6 strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
7 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

8 (c) PRESENTATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The gold medal referred to
10 in subsection (a) shall be presented to—

11 (A)(i) the widow of Anwar Sadat, Jehan
12 Sadat; or

13 (ii) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next
14 of kin of Jehan Sadat; and

15 (B) a representative of the Government of
16 Egypt.

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

20 (A) Jehan Sadat; or

21 (B) if Jehan Sadat is unavailable, the next
22 of kin of Jehan Sadat.

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 under

1 such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price
2 sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, mate-
3 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and
4 the cost of the gold medal.

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

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

9 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
10 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
11 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
12 items.

Passed the House of Representatives September 26,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.

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