

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 509

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration
of the United States Coast Guard.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins
in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard.

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 “United States Coast
5 Guard Commemorative Coin Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The United States Coast Guard was found-
9 ed on August 4, 1790, as the Revenue Cutter Serv-

1 ice under the United States Department of the
2 Treasury.

3 (2) Congress created the Coast Guard on Janu-
4 ary 28, 1915, by merging the Revenue Cutter Serv-
5 ice and the United States Lifesaving Service, was
6 moved to the Department of Transportation in
7 1967, and on February 25, 2003, became part of
8 the Department of Homeland Security.

9 (3) Although the smallest of the uniformed
10 services, today the United States Coast Guard con-
11 ducts a wide variety of missions to protect the pub-
12 lic, the environment, and the United States economic
13 and security interests in any maritime region, in-
14 cluding international waters and America’s coasts,
15 ports, and inland waterways.

16 (4) Every day, the United States Coast Guard
17 plays a broad and important role in homeland secu-
18 rity, law enforcement, search and rescue, marine en-
19 vironmental pollution response, and the maintenance
20 of river, intra-coastal and offshore aids to navigation
21 (ATON).

22 (5) The United States Coast Guard is our Na-
23 tion’s oldest seagoing military service, staying true
24 to their motto, Semper Paratus or “Always Ready”,
25 for 227 years.

1 (6) The United States Coast Guard is sup-
2 ported by over 55,000 Active Duty, Reserve, and Ci-
3 vilian personnel, who in 2016 responded to 16,304
4 search and rescue cases saving 5,221 lives, con-
5 ducted 47,418 waterborne patrols of critical mari-
6 time infrastructure, escorted over 2671 high-capac-
7 ity passenger vessels, conducted 7022 security
8 boardings in and around United States ports, re-
9 moved \$5.7 billion worth of illegal drugs, interdicted
10 6,346 undocumented migrants attempting to illegally
11 enter the United States, and maintained 45,114
12 navigation aids that support \$3.2 trillion in eco-
13 nomic activity on our Nation’s waterways.

14 (7) Section 213 of Public Law 108–293 states
15 that “The Commandant may establish a National
16 Coast Guard Museum, on lands which will be feder-
17 ally owned and administered by the Coast Guard,
18 and are located in New London, Connecticut, at, or
19 in close proximity to, the Coast Guard Academy.”.

20 (8) The National Coast Guard Museum Asso-
21 ciation, a nonprofit association dedicated to improve
22 public understanding of the history, service and mis-
23 sions of the Coast Guard, is working with the
24 United States Coast Guard, the City of New Lon-
25 don, the State of Connecticut, and a range of local,

1 regional, and national stakeholders to develop, plan
2 and raise capital for the National Coast Guard Mu-
3 seum, to be located in New London, Connecticut.

4 (9) The United States Coast Guard is the only
5 military service without a national museum through
6 which to share its history and legacy with the Amer-
7 ican public.

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

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

12 (1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 100,000
13 \$5 coins, which shall—

14 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

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

16 (C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent
17 alloy.

18 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000
19 \$1 coins, which shall—

20 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

22 (C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

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

25 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

1 (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and
2 (C) be minted to the specifications for half
3 dollar coins, contained in section 5112(b) of
4 title 31, United States Code.

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

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

12 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COIN.**

13 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
15 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the
16 traditions, history, and heritage of the United States
17 Coast Guard, and its role in securing our Nation
18 since 1790.

19 (2) DESIGNATIONS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
20 each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

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

22 (B) an inscription of the year “2020”; and

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

24 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-

1 ica”, “E Pluribus Unum”, and “Semper
2 Paratus”.

3 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
4 under this Act shall—

5 (1) contain motifs that specifically honor the
6 United States Coastguardsman of both today and
7 yesterday, in wartime and in peace, such designs to
8 be consistent with the traditions and heritage of the
9 United States Coast Guard, the mission and goals of
10 the National Coast Guard Museum, and the mis-
11 sions and goals of the National Coast Guard Mu-
12 seum Association;

13 (2) be selected by the Secretary, after consulta-
14 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
15 National Coast Guard Museum Association, and the
16 Commission of Fine Arts; and

17 (3) be reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advi-
18 sory Committee.

19 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

22 (b) MINT FACILITIES.—For each of the 3 coins mint-
23 ed under this Act, at least one facility of the United States
24 Mint shall be used to strike proof quality coins, while at

1 least one other such facility shall be used to strike the
2 uncirculated quality coins.

3 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
4 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
5 period beginning on January 1, 2020.

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

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

10 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

13 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
14 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
15 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

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

19 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

1 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under
3 this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

4 (1) A surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin.

5 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

6 (3) A surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half dol-
7 lar coin.

8 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
9 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
10 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
11 shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National
12 Coast Guard Museum Association to help finance the de-
13 sign, construction, operations, and maintenance of the Na-
14 tional Coast Guard Museum.

15 (c) AUDITS.—The National Coast Guard Museum
16 Association shall be subject to the audit requirements of
17 section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with
18 regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

19 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
20 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
21 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
22 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
23 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
24 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
25 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under

1 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code. The
2 Secretary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

3 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

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

6 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
7 will not result in any net cost to the United States
8 Government; and

9 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
10 shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-
11 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing
12 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including
13 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
14 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the
15 United States Treasury, consistent with sections
16 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States
17 Code.

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