

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3238

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2006

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) 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 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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 “NASA and JPL 50th  
5       Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

7       (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the  
8       50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aer-

1 onautics and Space Administration and the Jet Propulsion  
2 Laboratory, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in  
3 this Act referred to as the “Secretary) shall mint and issue  
4 the following coins:

5 (1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000  
6 \$50 gold coins which shall—

7 (A) weigh 33.931 grams;

8 (B) have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters;

9 and

10 (C) contain 1 troy ounce of fine gold.

11 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000  
12 \$1 coins of each of the 9 designs specified in section  
13 3(a)(3)(B), which shall—

14 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

16 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
17 cent copper.

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

21 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
22 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
23 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

24 (d) MINTAGE LEVEL LIMIT.—Notwithstanding the  
25 mintage level limit described under section

1 5112(m)(2)(A)(ii) of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-  
2 retary of the Treasury may mint and issue not more than  
3 400,000 of each of the 9 \$1 coins authorized to be minted  
4 under this Act.

5 **SEC. 3. DESIGN OF COINS.**

6 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
8 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 50  
9 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of  
10 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
11 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

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

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

15 (B) an inscription of the year “2008”; and

16 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
17 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
18 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”, and such other  
19 inscriptions as the Secretary may determine to  
20 be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

21 (3) COIN IMAGES.—

22 (A) \$50 COINS.—

23 (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the  
24 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear  
25 an image of the sun.

1           (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the  
2           \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear  
3           a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the  
4           United States astronauts who lost their  
5           lives in the line of duty over the course of  
6           the space program.

7           (iii) EDGE.—The edge of the \$50  
8           coins issued under this Act shall bear the  
9           names and dates of the spacecraft missions  
10          on which United States astronauts lost  
11          their lives over the course of the space pro-  
12          gram.

13          (iv) HIGH RELIEF.—The design and  
14          inscriptions on the obverse and reverse of  
15          the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall  
16          be in high relief.

17          (B) \$1 COINS.—

18               (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the \$1  
19               coins issued under this Act shall bear 9  
20               different designs each of which shall con-  
21               sist of an image of 1 of the 9 planets of  
22               the solar system, including Earth.

23               (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1  
24               coins issued under this Act shall bear dif-  
25               ferent designs each of which shall be em-

1           blematic of discoveries and missions of the  
2           Jet Propulsion Laboratory to the planet  
3           depicted on the obverse of the coin, subject  
4           to the following requirements:

5                   (I) EARTH COIN.—The reverse of  
6                   the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
7                   which bear an image of the Earth on  
8                   the obverse shall bear images emblem-  
9                   atic of, and honoring, the discoveries  
10                  and missions of the National Aero-  
11                  nautics and Space Administration, the  
12                  Mercury, Gemini and Space Shuttle  
13                  missions and other manned Earth-or-  
14                  biting missions, and the Apollo mis-  
15                  sions to the Moon.

16                  (II) JUPITER COIN.—The reverse  
17                  of the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
18                  which bear an image of the planet Ju-  
19                  piter on the obverse shall include a  
20                  scientifically accurate depiction of the  
21                  Galilean moon Europa and depict  
22                  both a past and future mission to Eu-  
23                  ropa.

24                  (III) SATURN COIN.—The reverse  
25                  of the \$1 coins issued under this Act

1 which bear an image of the planet  
2 Saturn on the obverse shall include a  
3 scientifically accurate depiction of the  
4 moon Titan and depict both a past  
5 and a future mission to Titan.

6 (IV) PLUTO COIN.—The reverse  
7 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
8 which bear an image of the planet  
9 Pluto on the obverse shall include a  
10 design that is emblematic of telescopic  
11 exploration of deep space by the Na-  
12 tional Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
13 istration and the ongoing search for  
14 Earth-like planets orbiting other  
15 stars.

16 (iii) EDGE.—It is the sense of the  
17 Congress that, to the extent practicable,  
18 the edge of each \$1 coin should bear the  
19 names and dates or range of dates of mis-  
20 sions or mission types to the planet de-  
21 picted on the obverse.

22 (4) REALISTIC AND SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE  
23 DEPICTIONS.—The images for the designs of coins  
24 issued under this Act shall be selected on the basis  
25 of the realism and scientific accuracy of the images

1 and on the extent to which the images are reminis-  
2 cent of the dramatic and beautiful artwork on coins  
3 of the so-called “Golden Age of Coinage” in the  
4 United States, at the beginning of the Twentieth  
5 Century, with the participation of such noted sculp-  
6 tors and medallie artists as James Earle Fraser, Au-  
7 gustus Saint-Gaudens, Victor David Brenner, Ad-  
8 olph A. Weinman, Charles E. Barber, and George T.  
9 Morgan.

10 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted  
11 under this Act shall be—

12 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation  
13 with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics  
14 and Space Administration, the Director of the Jet  
15 Propulsion Laboratory, and the Commission of Fine  
16 Arts; and

17 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory  
18 Committee.

19 **SEC. 4. SYMBOLIC INCLUSION OF METALS THAT HAVE**  
20 **FLOWN IN SPACE.**

21 (a) COLLECTION.—Each Federal agency and instru-  
22 mentality of the United States, including the Department  
23 of Defense, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Aer-  
24 onautics and Space Administration, and the Jet Propul-

1 sion Laboratory, that has in its possession any craft, or  
2 any part of a craft, that flew in space shall—

3           (1) retrieve such gold, silver, copper, and other  
4 metals that the Director of the United States Mint  
5 determines are appropriate for use in the production  
6 of any coins under this Act, from such craft or part,  
7 that can be retrieved without harming any such  
8 craft or part that may be of continuing use for its  
9 original purpose or for research, or whose preserva-  
10 tion is appropriate for historical purposes; and

11           (2) deposit such metals so retrieved with the  
12 Director of the United States Mint.

13       (b) USE OF METALS IN PRODUCTION OF COINS.—

14 Any metals deposited with the Director of the United  
15 States Mint under subsection (a) shall be used in the pro-  
16 duction of the coins struck under this Act by blending  
17 such metals with other metal necessary for the production  
18 of such coins so that all of the coins produced under this  
19 Act will contain some proportion of the bullion obtained  
20 from craft or parts of crafts that flew in space in an  
21 amount appropriate for the types and denominations of  
22 the coins and the amount of metals so deposited.

23       (c) RECORDKEEPING.—It is the sense of the Con-  
24 gress that each Federal agency and instrumentality of the  
25 United States which retrieves any metals in accordance

1 with subsection (a) should maintain accurate and complete  
2 records of the retrieval and deposit of any such metals  
3 sufficient to allow the Director of the United States  
4 Mint—

5           (1) to provide certificates of authenticity with  
6 coins issued under this Act that some proportion of  
7 the contents of such coins were obtained from craft  
8 or parts of crafts that flew in space; and

9           (2) to package with each issued coin a list of  
10 the missions in which such craft flew in space.

11 (d) PRIVATE SPACECRAFT.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency and in-  
13 strumentality of the United States that has or con-  
14 tinues to conduct space-related missions shall, in ad-  
15 dition to the efforts described in subsection (a),  
16 make efforts to secure and retrieve from privately-  
17 held craft that has flown in space such gold, silver,  
18 copper and other metals that the Director of the  
19 United States Mint determines are appropriate for  
20 use in the production of any coins under this Act.

21           (2) RECORDKEEPING.—It is the sense of the  
22 Congress that each Federal agency and instrumen-  
23 tality of the United States which retrieves any met-  
24 als pursuant to paragraph (1) from privately-held  
25 craft that has flown in space should comply with the

1 recordkeeping procedures described in subsection (c)  
2 with respect to such metal.

3 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

4 (a) **QUALITY OF COINS.**—Coins minted under this  
5 Act shall be issued in proof quality only.

6 (b) **MINT FACILITY.**—Only 1 facility of the United  
7 States Mint may be used to strike any particular combina-  
8 tion of denomination and quality of the coins minted under  
9 this Act.

10 (c) **COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary  
11 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January  
12 1, 2008.

13 (d) **TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.**—No  
14 coins may be minted under this Act after December 31,  
15 2008.

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

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

20 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

23 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins  
24 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,  
25 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

1 (b) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

8 (c) PRESENTATION.—In addition to the issuance of  
9 coins under this Act in such other methods of presentation  
10 as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appro-  
11 priate, the Secretary shall provide, as a sale option, a pres-  
12 entation case which displays the \$50 gold coin in the cen-  
13 ter surrounded by the \$1 silver coins in an elliptical orbit.

14 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

17 (1) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$50  
18 coin.

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

20 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
21 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
22 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
23 shall be promptly distributed as follows:

24 (1) The first \$1,000,000 available for distribu-  
25 tion under this section, to the NASA Family Assist-

1       ance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based  
2       financial assistance to the families of NASA per-  
3       sonnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the  
4       performance of their official duties.

5           (2) Of amounts available for distribution after  
6       the payment under paragraph (1),  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the Sec-  
7       retary of the Smithsonian Institution for the preser-  
8       vation, maintenance, and display of space artifacts  
9       at the National Air and Space Museum (including  
10      the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center).

11          (3) Of amounts available for distribution after  
12      the payment under paragraph (1)—

13           (A)  $\frac{1}{4}$  to the Secretary of the Smithsonian  
14      Institution for the preservation, maintenance,  
15      and display of the National Numismatics Col-  
16      lection; and

17           (B)  $\frac{1}{4}$  to the National Numismatic Preser-  
18      vation Foundation for the preservation, mainte-  
19      nance, and display of numismatic collectibles.

20      (c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund  
21      and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution shall be  
22      subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of  
23      title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts  
24      received under subsection (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. BRONZE DUPLICATES.**

13       The Secretary may strike and sell bronze duplicates  
14 of the \$50 gold coins authorized under this Act, at a price  
15 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

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