

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2500

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself and Mr. CULBERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
2 ministration began operation on October 1, 1958,
3 with about 8,000 employees and an annual budget
4 of \$100,000,000.

5 (2) Over the next 50 years, the National Aero-
6 nautics and Space Administration and the Jet Pro-
7 pulsion Laboratory have been involved in many de-
8 fining events which have shaped the course of
9 human history and demonstrated to the world the
10 character of the people of the United States.

11 (3) Among the many firsts by the National Aer-
12 onautics and Space Administration are the following:

13 (A) On December 6, 1958, the United
14 States launched Pioneer 3, the first United
15 States satellite to ascend to an altitude of
16 63,580 miles.

17 (B) On March 3, 1959, the United States
18 sent Pioneer 4 to the Moon, successfully mak-
19 ing the first United States lunar flyby.

20 (C) On April 1, 1960, the United States
21 launched TIROS 1, the first successful mete-
22 orological satellite, observing Earth's weather.

23 (D) On May 5, 1961, Freedom 7, carrying
24 Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr., was the first
25 American space flight involving human beings.

1 (E) On February 20, 1962, John Glenn
2 became the first American to circle the Earth,
3 making three orbits in his Friendship 7 Mer-
4 cury spacecraft.

5 (F) On December 14, 1962, Mariner 2 be-
6 came the first spacecraft to commit a successful
7 planetary flyby (Venus).

8 (G) On April 6, 1965, the United States
9 launched Intelsat I, the first commercial sat-
10 ellite (communications), into geostationary
11 orbit.

12 (H) On June 3–7, 1965, the second piloted
13 Gemini mission, Gemini IV, stayed aloft for 4
14 days and astronaut Edward H. White II per-
15 formed the first EVA or spacewalk by an Amer-
16 ican.

17 (I) On June 2, 1966, Surveyor 1 became
18 the first American spacecraft to soft-land on
19 the Moon.

20 (J) On November 13, 1971, the United
21 States launched Mariner 9, the first mission to
22 orbit another planet (Mars).

23 (K) On April 12, 1981, the National Aero-
24 nautics and Space Administration launched the

1 Space Shuttle Columbia on the first flight of
2 the Space Transportation System (STS-1).

3 (L) On June 18–24, 1983, the National
4 Aeronautics and Space Administration launched
5 Space Shuttle Challenger (STS-7) carrying 3
6 mission specialists, including Sally K. Ride, the
7 first woman astronaut.

8 (M) In another historic mission, 2 months
9 later the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
10 ministration launched STS-8 carrying the first
11 black American astronaut, Guion S. Bluford.

12 (N) On July 22, 1999, the Space Shuttle
13 Columbia’s 26th flight was led by Air Force
14 Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to com-
15 mand a Shuttle mission.

16 (4) On April 9, 1959, the National Aeronautics
17 and Space Administration unveiled the Mercury as-
18 tronaut corps, 7 men with “the right stuff”: John
19 H. Glenn, Jr., Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B.
20 Shepard, Jr., M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Coo-
21 per, Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom, and Donald K.
22 “Deke” Slayton.

23 (5) On May 25, 1961, President John F. Ken-
24 nedy, reflecting the highest aspirations of the Amer-
25 ican people, proclaimed: “I believe this Nation

1 should commit itself to achieving the goal, before
2 this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon
3 and returning him safely to Earth. No single space
4 project in this period will be more impressive to
5 mankind, or more important in the long-range explo-
6 ration of space; and none will be so difficult or ex-
7 pensive to accomplish.”

8 (6) On September 19, 1961, the National Aero-
9 nautics and Space Administration announced that
10 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
11 center dedicated to human space flight would be
12 built in Houston, Texas.

13 (7) In 1973, the Manned Spacecraft Center in
14 Houston, was renamed the Lyndon B. Johnson
15 Space Center.

16 (8) On December 21, 1968, Apollo 8 took off
17 atop a Saturn V booster from the Kennedy Space
18 Center for a historic mission to orbit the Moon.

19 (9) As Apollo 8 traveled outward, the crew fo-
20 cused a portable television camera on Earth and for
21 the first time humanity saw its home from afar, a
22 tiny, lovely, and fragile “blue marble” hanging in
23 the blackness of space.

24 (10) This transmission and viewing of Earth
25 from a distance was an enormously significant ac-

1 accomplishment and united the Nation at a time when
2 American society was in crisis over Vietnam, race re-
3 lations, urban problems, and a host of other difficul-
4 ties.

5 (11) On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts
6 Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin made the
7 first lunar landing mission while Michael Collins or-
8 bited overhead in the Apollo command module.

9 (12) Armstrong set foot on the surface, telling
10 the millions of listeners that it was “one small step
11 for man, one giant leap for mankind”; Aldrin soon
12 followed and planted an American flag, but omitted
13 claiming the land for the United States as had rou-
14 tinely been done during European exploration of the
15 Americas.

16 (13) The 2 Moon walkers left behind an Amer-
17 ican flag and a plaque bearing the inscription:
18 “Here Men From Planet Earth First Set Foot Upon
19 the Moon. Jul. 1969 A.D. We came in Peace for All
20 Mankind.”

21 (14) On July 4, 1997, the Mars Pathfinder
22 landed on Mars and on January 29, 1998, an Inter-
23 national Space Station agreement among 15 coun-
24 tries met in Washington, D.C., to sign agreements
25 to establish the framework for cooperation among

1 the partners on the design, development, operation,
2 and utilization of the Space Station.

3 (15) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
4 ministration's stunning achievements over the last
5 50 years have been won for all mankind at great
6 cost and sacrifice; in the quest to explore the uni-
7 verse, many National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
8 istration employees have lost their lives, including
9 the crews of Apollo 6, the Space Shuttle Challenger,
10 and the Space Shuttle Columbia.

11 (16) The United States should pay tribute to
12 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
13 and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory by minting and
14 issuing a commemorative silver dollar coin.

15 (17) The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a
16 commemorative coin would generate valuable fund-
17 ing for the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
18 istration Families Assistance Fund for the purposes
19 of providing need-based financial assistance to the
20 families of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
21 ministration personnel who die as a result of injuries
22 suffered in the performance of their official duties.

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

24 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the
25 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
4 issue 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 300,000
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
3 300,000 of each of the 9 \$1 coins authorized to be minted
4 under this Act.

5 **SEC. 4. 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) HIGH RELIEF.—The design and
8 inscriptions on the obverse and reverse of
9 the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall
10 be in high relief.

11 (B) \$1 COINS.—

12 (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the \$1
13 coins issued under this Act shall bear 9
14 different designs each of which shall con-
15 sist of an image of 1 of the 9 planets of
16 the solar system, including Earth.

17 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1
18 coins issued under this Act shall bear dif-
19 ferent designs each of which shall be em-
20 blematic of discoveries and missions of the
21 Jet Propulsion Laboratory to the planet
22 depicted on the obverse of the coin, subject
23 to the following requirements:

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

1 which bear an image of the Earth on
2 the obverse shall bear images emblem-
3 atic of, and honoring, the discoveries
4 and missions of the National Aero-
5 nautics and Space Administration, the
6 Mercury, Gemini and Space Shuttle
7 missions and other manned Earth-or-
8 biting missions, and the Apollo mis-
9 sions to the Moon.

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

18 (III) SATURN COIN.—The reverse
19 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act
20 which bear an image of the planet
21 Saturn on the obverse shall include a
22 scientifically accurate depiction of the
23 moon Titan and depict both a past
24 and a future mission to Titan.

1 (IV) PLUTO (AND OTHER DWARF
2 PLANETS) COIN.—The reverse of the
3 \$1 coins issued under this Act which
4 bear an image of the planet Pluto on
5 the obverse shall include a design that
6 is emblematic of telescopic exploration
7 of deep space by the National Aero-
8 nautics and Space Administration and
9 the ongoing search for Earth-like
10 planets orbiting other stars.

11 (4) REALISTIC AND SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE
12 DEPICTIONS.—The images for the designs of coins
13 issued under this Act shall be selected on the basis
14 of the realism and scientific accuracy of the images
15 and on the extent to which the images are reminis-
16 cent of the dramatic and beautiful artwork on coins
17 of the so-called “Golden Age of Coinage” in the
18 United States, at the beginning of the Twentieth
19 Century, with the participation of such noted sculp-
20 tors and medallie artists as James Earle Fraser, Au-
21 gustus Saint-Gaudens, Victor David Brenner, Ad-
22 olph A. Weinman, Charles E. Barber, and George T.
23 Morgan.

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

1 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
2 with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics
3 and Space Administration, the Director of the Jet
4 Propulsion Laboratory, and the Commission of Fine
5 Arts; and

6 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory
7 Committee.

8 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

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

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

15 (c) **COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary
16 may issue coins minted under this Act beginning January
17 1, 2008.

18 (d) **TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.**—No
19 coins may be minted under this Act after December 31,
20 2008.

21 (e) **ISSUANCE OF GOLD COINS.**—Each gold coin
22 minted under this Act may be issued only as part of a
23 complete set with 1 of each of the 9 \$1 coins minted under
24 this Act.

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

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

5 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

8 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
9 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
10 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

11 (b) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—

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

15 (2) **DISCOUNT.**—Sale prices with respect to pre-
16 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
17 sonable discount.

18 (c) **PRESENTATION.**—In addition to the issuance of
19 coins under this Act in such other methods of presentation
20 as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appro-
21 priate, the Secretary shall provide, as a sale option, a pres-
22 entation case which displays the \$50 gold coin in the cen-
23 ter surrounded by the \$1 silver coins in elliptical orbits.
24 All such presentation cases shall bear a plaque with appro-
25 priate inscriptions that include the names and dates of the
26 spacecraft missions on which United States astronauts

1 lost their lives over the course of the space program and
2 the names of such astronauts.

3 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

6 (1) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$50
7 coin.

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

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

13 (1) The first \$4,000,000 available for distribu-
14 tion under this section, to the NASA Family Assist-
15 ance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based
16 financial assistance to the families of NASA per-
17 sonnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the
18 performance of their official duties.

19 (2) Of amounts available for distribution after
20 the payment under paragraph (1), $\frac{1}{2}$ of the next
21 \$1,000,000 to each of the following:

22 (A) The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Edu-
23 cational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foun-
24 dation for the purposes of improving and
25 strengthening the process of teaching and

1 learning science, math, and technology at all
2 educational levels, elementary thru college
3 through the promotion of innovative educational
4 programs.

5 (B) The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for
6 Excellence for the purposes of supporting the
7 work of the Foundation in building critical
8 thinking skills, experiential teaching methods,
9 science literacy, and integrated approaches to
10 learning and individual responsibility in achiev-
11 ing excellence.

12 (3) The remainder of the amounts available for
13 distribution after the payments under paragraphs
14 (1) and (2), to the Save America's Treasures at the
15 National Trust for Historic Preservation to be used
16 for the preservation and display, at all appropriate
17 sites, of vehicles flown as part of the United States
18 space program, particularly of surviving space shut-
19 tle vehicles and artifacts, and of associated equip-
20 ment.

21 (c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund,
22 the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational Science Literacy
23 Foundation, the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excel-
24 lence, and the Save America's Treasures at the National
25 Trust for Historic Preservation shall be subject to the

1 audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31,
2 United States Code, with regard to the amounts received
3 under subsection (b).

4 **SEC. 8. BRONZE DUPLICATES.**

5 The Secretary may strike and sell bronze duplicates
6 of the \$50 gold coins authorized under this Act, at a price
7 the Secretary determines to be appropriate. Such dupli-
8 cates shall not be considered to be United States coins
9 and shall not be legal tender.

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