

that all of our colleagues would be supportive of the resolution.

I thank the gentlewoman for her sponsorship and all those who brought it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 789, honoring public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations and private entities providing services for foster children.

May is National Foster Care Month. We take this time to bring awareness to the many sides of foster care. Children are placed in foster care when their parents are no longer able to ensure their essential well being. These children need stable, loving care until they can either safely reunite with their families or cultivate other lasting relationships with nurturing adults.

Foster care is essential to protecting abused and neglected children. There are currently over 500,000 children in foster care in the United States. The majority of these children have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.

During this month we recognize the unique challenges foster children experience based on the instability in their home and school environments. Just over half of all foster children complete high school, 30 percent continue to rely on public assistance into adulthood, and 25 percent will experience homelessness at one point in their lives.

Today, we pay tribute to the public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations and private entities that provide services for foster children. These organizations work tirelessly to improve the lives of foster children by considering the best interest of each child, focusing on keeping families together when possible, and recruiting loving foster families.

The groups we honor today provide invaluable resources to foster families, teachers, counselors, physicians, clergy, and others who work closely with children in the foster care system. They sponsor research, develop best practices, and offer assistance to youth transitioning out of the system to ensure they receive adequate support as they reach adulthood. There are an estimated 12 million foster care alumni in the United States representing all walks of life.

Today, we honor the contributions of public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations and private entities dedicated to finding homes for foster children and assisting foster families in securing the future success of their foster children. These groups are committed to raising awareness related to the special needs of foster children.

That is why I stand in support of this resolution and I ask for my colleagues' support.

I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to be associated with the comments of Mr. CASTLE, and I also want to commend Mrs. BACHMANN and her family, her husband, for the outstanding role modeling which they display. I was taught that you can't lead where you don't go and you can't teach what you don't know, and they demonstrate the very best of what it means to be associated and involved with caring for children who are not necessarily your own. And so I certainly commend them for the outstanding service they provide.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 789, honoring public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations and private entities providing services for foster children. I first would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Representative MICHELE BACHMANN of Minnesota, for introducing this important legislation. This resolution acknowledges the importance of foster parents and other community partners who care for hurting children.

Children are placed in foster care because of society's concern for their well-being. Any time spent by a child in temporary care should be therapeutic but may be harmful to the child's growth, development, and well-being. Interruptions in the continuity of a child's caregiver are often detrimental. Repeated moves from home to home compound the adverse consequences that stress and inadequate parenting have on the child's development and ability to cope. Adults cope with impermanence by building on an accrued sense of self-reliance and by anticipating and planning for a time of greater constancy. Children, however, especially when young, have limited life experience on which to establish their sense of self. In addition, their sense of time focuses exclusively on the present and precludes meaningful understanding of "temporary" versus "permanent" or anticipation of the future. For young children, periods of weeks or months are not comprehensible. Disruption in either place or with a caregiver for even 1 day may be stressful. The younger the child and the more extended the period of uncertainty or separation, the more detrimental it will be to the child's well-being.

The observance brings sharply into focus the critical needs of foster children and the importance of our foster parents who respond so faithfully and selflessly to the children's needs. Some children are placed in foster care briefly while a family crisis is resolved. Others remain in care for longer periods of time, depending upon the circumstances that led to their removal from their family's home. Over 500,000 children in the United States are currently in foster care which is twice as many as 20 years ago. The majority of these children and youth have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. Our foster parents deserve special praise because they open their homes and their hearts to foster children and love them unconditionally. They understand that a safe, secure home is very important to the healthy development of a child.

An increasing number of young children are being placed in foster care because of parental neglect. Neglect has very profound and long-lasting consequences on all aspects of child development—poor attachment formation, understimulation, development delay, poor physical development, and antisocial behavior. Being in an environment in which child-directed support and communication is limited makes it more difficult for a child to develop the brain connections that facilitate language and vocabulary development, and therefore may impair communication skills. Recent findings in infant mental health show how development can be facilitated, how treatment can enhance brain development and psychological health, and how prevention strategies can lessen the ill effects of neglect.

Adoption by foster families has the potential to benefit not only the child being adopted, but

also the foster family and the child welfare agency. There are a number of reasons that a child's foster parents may be the best adoptive parents for that child. Foster parents have a greater knowledge of a child's experiences prior to placement and know what behaviors to expect from the child. If they have sufficient background information about what happened to a child before this placement, some knowledge of how children generally respond to such experiences, and extensive information about this child's specific behavior patterns, the foster family is better able to understand and respond to the child's needs in a positive and appropriate way. Foster parents usually have fewer fantasies and fears about the child's birth family, because they often have met and know them as real people with real problems. Foster parents have a better understanding of their role and relationship with the agency—and perhaps a relationship with their worker.

Foster children experience a number of unique challenges based on instability in their home and school environments. Just over half of all foster children complete high school, 40 percent continue to rely on public assistance into adulthood and 25 percent will experience homelessness at one point in their lives. Numerous public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations and private entities work tirelessly to recruit loving foster families and improve the lives of foster children. These groups strive to consider the best interest of each child and focus on keeping families together when possible. They provide invaluable resources to foster families as well as teachers, counselors, physicians, clergy, and others who work closely with children in the foster care system.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize and honor the contributions of all public child welfare agencies, nonprofit organizations and private entities dedicated to finding homes for foster children and assisting foster families in securing their future success.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 789, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ORIGINAL SAINT-GAUDENS DOUBLE EAGLE ULTRA-HIGH RELIEF PALLADIUM BULLION COIN ACT

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5614) to authorize the production of Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle

ultra-high relief bullion coins in palladium to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5614

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act shall be known as the “Original Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle Ultra-High Relief Palladium Bullion Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) the Augustus Saint-Gaudens \$20 gold pieces of 1907 with ultra-high relief are considered by many in the numismatic community to be the most beautiful coins ever produced;

(2) two separate “pattern” versions of the ultra-high relief Double Eagle were produced in 1907;

(3) a 34-millimeter version was hand-struck on a standard Double Eagle planchet using a medal press and, because manufacturing and technical limitations prevented mass production of these pieces, this production resulted in low mintage, with fewer than two dozen specimens of the 34-millimeter version known to be in existence today;

(4) a second, 27-millimeter, version was struck using two stacked \$10 Eagle planchets;

(5) these experimental “pattern” 27-millimeter pieces were deemed to be illegal to produce and all specimens were destroyed except for 2 that reside in the Smithsonian’s National Numismatic Collection;

(6) the 27-millimeter pattern pieces are ranked by numismatists as among the most beautiful coins ever produced, but none are in private hands and none have ever come up for sale;

(7) the ultra-high relief Double Eagles are representative of the greatest period of American coinage, the so-called “Golden Age of Coinage” in the United States, initiated by President Theodore Roosevelt, with the assistance of noted sculptors and medallic artists James Earle Fraser and Augustus Saint-Gaudens;

(8) the introduction of this famous piece as a numismatic proof coin would not only give collectors an opportunity to own a version of a legendary coin that has never before been available for private ownership, but also inaugurate a neo-renaissance in United States coin design and demonstrate the technological advances that the United States has achieved over the last century;

(9) the modern coin version of the \$20 gold piece would be updated with the addition of the inscription “In God We Trust” and would include the date of minting or issuance, to distinguish it from the originals and prevent counterfeiting;

(10) palladium is a rare silver-white metal, and is considered a precious metal because of its scarcity;

(11) palladium is one of 6 platinum group metals that include ruthenium, rhodium, osmium, iridium, and platinum; it is the least dense and has the lowest melting point of the platinum group metals;

(12) the major nations mining palladium are in order of volume: Russia, South Africa, United States of America, and Canada;

(13) the major mine producing palladium in the United States is located in Montana;

(14) palladium is fabricated into a wide range of applications that includes its extensive use as an industrial catalyst and a key component in the manufacturing of automotive catalytic converters;

(15) palladium is also used in dentistry, jewelry, and in the production of surgical instruments and electrical contacts;

(16) the demand for precious metals is driven not only by their practical use, but also by their role as a store of value;

(17) a variety of investment options are available to palladium investors that includes coins, bars, and exchange-traded funds;

(18) palladium coins have been issued by several countries, mainly as commemorative coins, but also as bullion investment coins (bullion is the form of palladium traded for investment purposes and is a reference to its purity);

(19) Tonga commenced issuing palladium coins in 1967 and other issuing countries have included Canada, the Soviet Union, France, Russia, China, Australia, and Slovakia;

(20) today, only Canada mints palladium bullion coins;

(21) during the period 2003 through 2007, the price of palladium ranged between \$148 and \$404 per troy ounce, and the average price in 2007 was \$355 per troy ounce;

(22) by contrast, during the same period, the price of platinum ranged between a low of \$603 and a high \$1,544, and the average price in 2007 was \$1,303 per troy ounce;

(23) thus, platinum bullion coins have become too expensive for the average investor;

(24) The Royal Canadian Mint minted platinum bullion coins for 14 years (between 1988 and 2001), but ceased production in the face of high metal prices and declining sales;

(25) when the United States Mint’s American Eagle Platinum Bullion Coin was launched in 1997, the average price for the metal that year was \$395 per troy ounce; and

(26) over the past decade, the price has more than tripled, which has caused a dramatic decline in demand for these coins, from 80,050 ounces sold in 1997 to 9,050 in 2007.

SEC. 3. ORIGINAL SAINT-GAUDENS DOUBLE EAGLE ULTRA-HIGH RELIEF BULLION COIN.

Section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) A \$20 coin that—

“(A) is 27 millimeters in diameter;

“(B) weighs 1 ounce;

“(C) is of an appropriate thickness, as determined by the Secretary; and

“(D) bears, on the obverse and reverse, the designs of the famous 27-millimeter version of the 1907 Augustus Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle gold piece, as described in subsection (b).”; and

(2) by adding at the end, the following new subsection:

“(t) ORIGINAL SAINT-GAUDENS DOUBLE EAGLE ULTRA-HIGH RELIEF NUMISMATIC COINS AND BULLION INVESTMENT COINS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning January 1, 2009, the Secretary shall commence minting and issuing for sale—

“(A) such number of \$20 bullion investment coins as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate, that bear the design described in paragraph (2); and

“(B) not more than 15,000 of the numismatic \$20 coins that bear the design and meet the requirements of paragraph (3).

“(2) DESIGN AND REQUIREMENTS FOR BULLION INVESTMENT COINS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), the obverse and reverse of the coins minted and issued pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) shall bear a close approximation of the original obverse and reverse designs by Augustus Saint-Gaudens which appear on the famous 27-millimeter version of the 1907 Double Eagle ultra-high relief gold piece.

“(B) VARIATIONS.—The coins referred to in subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) have inscriptions of the weight of the coin and the purity of the alloy in the coin raised on the edge of the coin;

“(ii) bear the nominal denomination of the coin;

“(iii) bear the date of issue of the coin on the obverse, expressed as a Roman numeral as in the original design; and

“(iv) bear such other inscriptions, including ‘In God We Trust’, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate and in keeping with the original design.

“(C) MINT FACILITY.—Any facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike coins minted pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) other than the United States mint at West Point, New York.

“(3) DESIGN AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ULTRA-HIGH RELIEF NUMISMATIC COINS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the obverse and reverse of the coins minted and issued pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) shall bear exact replicas of the original obverse and reverse designs by Augustus Saint-Gaudens which appear on the famous 27-millimeter version of the 1907 Double Eagle ultra-high relief gold piece and the edge of the coin shall have all appropriate raised lettering in the same manner as the original coin.

“(B) VARIATIONS.—The coins referred to in subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) bear a single finish that most closely approximate the finish of the original gold 1907 ultra-high relief gold piece as is practicable;

“(ii) bear the nominal denomination of the coin;

“(iii) bear the date of issue of the coin on the obverse, expressed as a Roman numeral as in the original design; and

“(iv) bear such other inscriptions, including ‘In God We Trust’, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate and in keeping with the original design.

“(C) MINT FACILITY.—Coins minted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) may only be struck at the United States mint at West Point, New York.

“(D) FRACTIONAL COINS PROHIBITED.—No coins issued pursuant to paragraph (1)(B), shall be made available as so-called ‘fractional’ coins.

“(4) DISTRIBUTION IN SETS AND OTHER COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary chooses, in accordance with subsection (1), to mint and issue a gold bullion coin that bears the same design as the ultra-high relief numismatic coins described in paragraph (1)(B)—

“(A) each palladium coin issued under paragraph (1)(B) may only be issued in a set containing 1 of each such coins;

“(B) each set of coins described in subparagraph (A) shall be provided in a presentation case of appropriate design;

“(C) the set described in subparagraph (A) may only be issued and sold in 2009;

“(D) gold coins issued in any set described in subparagraph (A) may only be struck at the United States mint at West Point, New York and no other gold coin issued by the Secretary that bears the same design as the ultra-high relief numismatic coins described in paragraph (1)(B) may be struck at such mint at West Point; and

“(E) no gold coin that bears the same design as the ultra-high relief numismatic coins described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be made available as so-called ‘fractional’ coins.

“(5) COMPOSITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The coins minted under this subsection shall contain .995 pure palladium.

“(B) SOURCE OF BULLION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall acquire bullion for the palladium coins issued under this subsection by purchase of palladium mined from natural deposits in the United States, or in a territory or possession of the United States, within 1 year after the month in which the ore from which it is derived was mined.

“(ii) PRICE OF BULLION.—The Secretary shall pay not more than the average world price for the palladium under subparagraph (A).

“(6) SALE OF COINS.—Each coin issued under this subsection shall be sold for an amount the Secretary determines to be appropriate, but not less than the sum of—

“(A) the nominal denomination of the coin;

“(B) the market value of the bullion at the time of sale; and

“(C) the cost of designing and issuing the coins, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, distribution, and shipping.

“(7) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this title shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103.

“(8) TREATMENT AS NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 and 5136, all coins minted under this subsection shall be considered to be numismatic items.

“(9) QUALITY.—The Secretary may issue the coins described in paragraph (1)(A) in both proof and uncirculated versions.

“(10) PROTECTIVE AND ANTI-COUNTERFEITING COVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give strong consideration to making the coins described in this subsection available only in protective covers that preserve the coins in the condition in which they are issued, allow clear and easy viewing of the obverse, reverse, and sides of the coin and protect it from movement within the holder, and also protect against counterfeiting of such coins or of the container.

“(B) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may elect to comply with subparagraph (A) by producing and assembling such protective covers within the United States Mint or by contracting for the installation of such covers.

“(11) FURTHER ANTI-COUNTERFEITING MEASURES.—

“(A) REPORT REQUIRED.—In an attempt to forestall the counterfeiting or marketing of the coins described in this section, including this subsection, and of collectible, numismatic and rare coins in general, the Comptroller General shall, after consulting with the Director of the United States Secret Service and the Federal Trade Commission, and in consultation with hobbyists, numismatists, law enforcement agencies, and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, before the end of the 9-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Original Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle Ultra-High Relief Bullion Coin Act, a report detailing the extent of counterfeiting of rare, collectible or numismatic coins made available for sale in the United States, regardless of the country where the original of such coin was produced or of the country in which the counterfeiting takes place, or sales overseas if such counterfeit coins are unauthorized copies of coins originally produced by the United States Mint.

“(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall describe the following:

“(i) The extent of such counterfeiting of coins and numismatic items.

“(ii) The source of such counterfeiting, if known, including which countries may be

the origin of such counterfeits if they are produced outside the United States.

“(iii) The distribution and marketing channels for such counterfeits within and without the United States.

“(iv) The effect of any such counterfeiting on hobbyists, numismatists and on the investment opportunities for bullion or numismatic coins produced by the United States Mint.

“(v) Whether such counterfeiting extends to the counterfeiting of coin-grading or protective materials in such a way that might imply that the counterfeit inside had been examined and authenticated by a reputable coin-grading firm.

“(vi) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Comptroller General may determine to be appropriate to curtail or forestall any such counterfeiting.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5614, the Original Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle Ultra-High Relief Palladium Bullion Coin Act, of which I am an original cosponsor.

H.R. 5614 instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$20 coins in memory of Augustus Saint-Gauden Double Eagle gold pieces of 1907. The issuing of this coin will begin on January 1, 2009.

The introduction of this famous piece as a collectors' proof coin would not only give collectors an opportunity to own a version of a legendary coin that has never before been available for private ownership but also inaugurate a neo-renaissance in United States coin design. The coin will also demonstrate the technological advances in engraving and minting the U.S. has achieved over the last century.

I congratulate my friend from the Financial Services Committee, Mr. CASTLE, for introducing this bill and urge all Members to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is simple legislation, as Mr. GUTIERREZ has said, that directs the creation of an investment-grade coin of palladium made available to those who seek to invest in precious metals as a hedge against inflation.

I'm happy to be a sponsor of this bill, along with Mr. GUTIERREZ, the chairman of the Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology Subcommittee that I once chaired.

With the spike in value of precious metals, investors who recently may have bought gold to put in IRAs have nothing in the standard 1-ounce size investor coin between \$18 or so and about \$1,000, with gold having jumped in the last couple of years from maybe \$400 an ounce to more than \$900.

Palladium, known as the fourth precious metal and approved as an investment vehicle by Congress a decade ago, along with gold, silver and platinum, would fill that gap.

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Yesterday it was trading at about \$422 an ounce. Palladium is also mined in quantity in the United States. I'm told that more than 400 people work in the Palladium mine in Montana.

Mr. Speaker, investors do want a choice in their precious metals. And while gold may always be king, if the Mint is going to have a bullion program, it needs to present alternatives. Unfortunately, for many investors, platinum, once valued at nearly the same as palladium, has leapt to nearly \$2,000 an ounce, and once-healthy sales of platinum bullion coins shrank to a mere 9,000 ounces last year.

Creating a palladium bullion coin will offer investors another option. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this legislation calls for a limited number of the palladium coins to be made with the exact design as the famous gold 1907 Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle Ultra-High Relief coin, of which only about a dozen were made because of technical limitations at the time. I understand Mint Director Moy plans to make gold replicas of that coin, and if so, this bill provides that a limited number be sold in a special presentation case with numismatic versions of the palladium coin.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call Members' attention to a report required at the end of the bill. For some time now we've been hearing of the import and sale into the United States of high-quality fakes of both collectible and investor coins, and more recently of counterfeiting of the special containers that certify a coin's quality as set by an independent grading firm. Mr. Speaker, counterfeiting must be stopped, whether it's of U.S. \$100 bills, ancient Greek coins, or high-quality fashion ware.

The report required in this bill will, I hope, focus the various parts of the government with jurisdiction over this crime so we can determine the scope and source of the problem and begin taking appropriate action to stop it.

I urge quick passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask support of the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5614, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2894) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and the War of 1812, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2894

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) During the War of 1812, on September 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key visited the British fleet in Chesapeake Bay to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, who had been captured after the burning of Washington, DC.

(2) The release was completed, but Key was held by the British overnight during the shelling of Fort McHenry, one of the forts defending Baltimore.

(3) In the morning, Key peered through clearing smoke to see an enormous American flag flying proudly after a 25-hour British bombardment of Fort McHenry.

(4) He was so delighted to see the flag still flying over the fort that he began a poem to commemorate the occasion, with a note that it should be sung to the popular British melody "To Anacreon in Heaven".

(5) In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that it be played at military and naval occasions.

(6) In 1931, the "Star-Spangled Banner" became our National Anthem.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) **\$1 SILVER COINS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 350,000 \$1 coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner and the War of 1812, each of which shall—

(1) weigh 26.73 grams;

(2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

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

(c) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) **DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the War of 1812 and particularly the Battle for Fort McHenry that formed the basis for the "Star-Spangled Banner".

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

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

(B) an inscription of the year "2012"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

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

(1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

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

(b) **MINT FACILITY.**—Only one facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) **PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.**—The Secretary may issue coins under this Act only during the calendar year beginning on January 1, 2012.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

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

(1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

(c) **PREPAID ORDERS.**—

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

(2) **DISCOUNT.**—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

(b) **DISTRIBUTION.**—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be paid to the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission for the purpose of supporting bicentennial activities in collaboration with and aiding the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission as it provides coordination, advice, and assistance to Federal agencies, States, localities, and other organizations for such bicentennial activities, educational outreach activities (including supporting scholarly re-

search and the development of exhibits), and preservation and improvement activities relating to the sites and structures relating to the War of 1812.

(c) **AUDITS.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have the right to examine such books, records, documents, and other data of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid under subsection (b).

(d) **LIMITATION.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2894, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act, and applaud my colleague, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, for bringing this bill to the floor.

The Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$1 silver coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the War of 1812. The issuing of this coin will begin during the 2012 calendar year.

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was taken from the poem titled "In Defense of Fort McHenry" written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key, a 35-year-old amateur poet and distant cousin of F. Scott Fitzgerald. Key wrote the poem after seeing the bombardment of Fort McHenry at Baltimore, Maryland by the Royal ships in the Chesapeake Bay during the War of 1812.

The American victory and the sight of the large American flag graciously above the fort came to be known as the Star-Spangled Banner Flag. The Star-Spangled Banner, throughout the course of American history, has played a significant role in the democracy and freedom of this country. It symbolizes our strength and respect for those who