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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR SERGIO LOZANO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, Sergio Lozano shall be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Sergio Lozano enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (a), he shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or the application for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Sergio Lozano, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by one, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien’s birth under section 202(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the alien’s birth under section 202(e) of such Act.

Amend the title to read as follows: “For the relief of Sergio Lozano”.

MINTING OF COINS IN CONJUNCTION WITH REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3373, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill (H.R. 3373) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in conjunction with the minting of coins by the Republic of Iceland in commemoration of the millennium of the discovery of the new world by Leif Ericson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 3373, the Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative Coin Act. This bill authorizes three separate commemorative
coin programs which will commemorate the following historic events: the millennium anniversary of Leif Ericson’s discovery of the New World, the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the bicentennial of the first meeting of the United States Congress in the Capitol building after moving to Washington, D.C.

Companion bills for each of the three coin programs included in H.R. 3373 have also been introduced separately in the Senate. All three of the free-standing bills, S.1710, S. 1187, and S. 1468, have satisfied the rules of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on commemorative coin legislation, including having obtained a minimum of sixty-seven Senate cosponsors. The effort to combine the three bills and pass them as one coin program has been worked out by the House and Senate Banking Committees, and this bill was subsequently introduced and passed by the House of Representatives.

Mr. President, this legislation has the support of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs as it fully meets the standards set forth by the committee and furthermore, each bill adheres to the commemorative coin reforms enacted in the 104th Congress. Those reforms were necessary to keeping the time-honored pasttime of coin collecting from becoming overrun with far too many coin programs commemorating events or figures of lesser national recognition. I look forward to swift enactment of this legislation.

Mr. Harkin. Mr. President, I am pleased to support H.R. 3373, providing for the minting of a Leif Ericson Millennium Commemorative dollar coin. This bipartisan legislation would authorize the U.S. Mint to issue a coin jointly with the Icelandic National Bank in commemoration of Leif Ericson and his voyage and exploration of North America. The part of the measure concerning Leif Ericson is identical to S. 1710 that Senator Grams and I introduced which has the support of 74 Senators. The House bill was introduced by Congressman Jim Leach of my home state of Iowa who has worked hard toward the passage of this measure, I want to commend him for his good work.

The famous Viking explorer is regarded as the first European to set foot on North American soil in the year 1000 AD. In a time of sea voyages and land exploration, perhaps the most recognized Viking in history is Leif Ericson. Ericson’s determination, nobility and spirit of exploration are demonstrated in his Voyage of Discovery. Next year marks the 1000th anniversary of Leif Ericson’s Voyage of Discovery and this coin will commemorate this landmark event in our country’s history.

Leif Ericson, son of Eric the Red, was born in Iceland in the mid 900’s AD. There he learned about reading and writing runes, the Celtic and Russian tongue and the ways of trade. Ericson was also taught the old sagas, plant studies and was known for his far judgment and honesty. Having his father’s adventurous hand, Ericson had a strong urge to travel and explore.

Ericson was able to do some traveling between Iceland and Greenland, but his major Voyage of Discovery did not occur until 1000 AD, when explorer Bjarni Herjólfsson relayed exciting news of a new land that he had seen when he lost his course in the fog. Ericson bought Herjólfsson’s ship, gathered a crew of 35, and set out for Greenland. Unlike today, Ericson’s voyages on the sea were without many modern conveniences. He did not travel by a motor-powered ship, nor have any of today’s advanced technological navigational tools. Instead, Ericson and his small crew used the wind and tides as their primary source of motive power, relying on the weather as the engine for his vessel. His Viking ship did not do too well against hard winds with their single sails, but fortunately, fair weather allowed Ericson to navigate 600 miles west up the western coast. Soon he was following the outlines of the new lands he had heard of.

The first island Ericson landed on was among glaciers and seemed to be one huge slab of rock. Because of this he named it Helluland (Slab Land or Flat Rock Land), which is now believed to be Baffin Island. Ericson then sailed south and found another land that was flat with white beaches and some trees. He named this land Markland (Woodland) which today is believed to be Labrador on the eastern coast of Canada.

Finally, Ericson sailed southeast for two days and came to an island with a mainland. On this land the Viking explorer and his crew came upon an abundance of grapes as well as vegetation. They had never seen before. They also were astounded by the size of fish and other animal life they saw while exploring this land. Blowing cold winds, his crew settled in for the winter, but the winter here was very peculiar. No frost came to the grasses. They also noticed that the days and nights were of more equal length here. When spring came and the men were ready to go, Ericson gave this land the name Vinland, which either means Wineland or Pastureland. Vinland is believed to be today’s L’Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland and archaeological findings of this winter camp seem to confirm this belief.

Ericson’s Voyage of Discovery is a significant event in North American history and symbolizes a long relationship between the U.S. and Iceland. The Government of Iceland is an important North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally and this action would reiterate our strong relationship with and support for their nation. Iceland votes with the United States on virtually all United Nations and NATO issues and has formulated foreign policies parallel to ours. They also are cutting costs at our military base in Keflavík. Iceland has refrained from whaling, encouraged more U.S. trade and investment and initiated a partnership with the state of Alaska. The Government of Iceland has already approved a silver 1000 Kroner Icelandic coin to be produced by the U.S. Mint that will be packaged and issued simultaneously with the U.S. Leif Ericson Commemorative Coin. We believe jointly issuing these coins will help further relations between our nations.

The United States Congress strengthened U.S.-Icelandic relations in 1930 by presenting a statue of Leif Ericson as a gift to Iceland memorializing Ericson’s Voyage of Discovery. President Lyndon B. Johnson made October 9 “Leif Ericson Day” in commemoration of the famous Viking explorer. The Leif Ericson Commemorative Coin in the year 2000 would commemorate the millennium anniversary of Ericson’s voyage and would display our commitment to continuing this relationship for the coming millennium.

H.R. 3373 allows a simultaneous issuance of a commemorative U.S. silver dollar coin and a silver 1000 Kroner Icelandic coin. Both coins are to be produced in limited mintage, with U.S. Mint issuing a boxed set. Mint and surcharge proceeds from the coins will fund scholarships and student exchange programs between Iceland and United States. The U.S. Mint has read and approved the identical House version as meeting all the guidelines contained in the 1995 Congressional House Banking Committee Commemorative Coin Reforms Act, which protects the taxpayer from any costs. We feel such a coin is an important step in recognizing the important role Iceland has played in North American history. H.R. 3373 also provides for a Lewis and Clark Expedition Commemorative Coin which I strongly support and a Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative Coin.

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3373) was read the third time and passed.