

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2750

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## AN ACT

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*



1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “NASA 50th Anniver-  
3 sary Commemorative Coin Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

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

10 (2) Over the next 50 years, the National Aero-  
11 nautics and Space Administration has been involved  
12 in many defining events which have shaped the  
13 course of human history and demonstrated to the  
14 world the character of the people of the United  
15 States.

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

18 (A) On December 6, 1958, the United  
19 States launched Pioneer 3, the first United  
20 States satellite to ascend to an altitude of  
21 63,580 miles.

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

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

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

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

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

14 (G) On April 6, 1965, the United States  
15 launched Intelsat I (also known as Early Bird  
16 1), the first commercial satellite (communica-  
17 tions), into geostationary orbit.

18 (H) On June 3–7, 1965, the second piloted  
19 Gemini mission, Gemini IV, stayed aloft for 4  
20 days and astronaut Edward H. White II per-  
21 formed the first EVA or spacewalk by an Amer-  
22 ican.

23 (I) On June 2, 1966, Surveyor 1 became  
24 the first American spacecraft to soft-land on  
25 the Moon.

1           (J) On May 31, 1971, the United States  
2           launched Mariner 9, the first mission to orbit  
3           another planet (Mars) beginning November 13,  
4           1971.

5           (K) On April 12, 1981, the National Aero-  
6           nautics and Space Administration launched the  
7           Space Shuttle Columbia on the first flight of  
8           the Space Transportation System (STS-1).

9           (L) On June 18, 1983, the National Aero-  
10          nautics and Space Administration launched  
11          Space Shuttle Challenger (STS-7) carrying 3  
12          mission specialists, including Sally K. Ride, the  
13          first woman astronaut.

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

18          (N) On July 23, 1999, the Space Shuttle  
19          Columbia's 26th flight was led by Air Force  
20          Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to com-  
21          mand a Shuttle mission.

22          (4) On April 9, 1959, the National Aeronautics  
23          and Space Administration unveiled the Mercury as-  
24          tronaut corps, 7 men with "the right stuff": John  
25          H. Glenn, Jr., Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B.

1 Shepard, Jr., M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Coo-  
2 per, Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom, and Donald K.  
3 “Deke” Slayton.

4 (5) On May 25, 1961, President John F. Ken-  
5 nedy, reflecting the highest aspirations of the Amer-  
6 ican people, proclaimed: “I believe this Nation  
7 should commit itself to achieving the goal, before  
8 this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon  
9 and returning him safely to Earth. No single space  
10 project in this period will be more impressive to  
11 mankind, or more important in the long-range explo-  
12 ration of space; and none will be so difficult or ex-  
13 pensive to accomplish.”.

14 (6) On September 19, 1961, the National Aero-  
15 nautics and Space Administration announced that  
16 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
17 center dedicated to human space flight would be  
18 built in Houston, Texas.

19 (7) On February 17, 1973, the Manned Space-  
20 craft Center in Houston was renamed the Lyndon  
21 B. Johnson Space Center.

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

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

6           (10) This transmission and viewing of Earth  
7           from a distance was an enormously significant ac-  
8           complishment and united the Nation at a time when  
9           American society was in crisis over Vietnam, race re-  
10          lations, urban problems, and a host of other difficul-  
11          ties.

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

16          (12) Armstrong set foot on the surface, telling  
17          the millions of listeners that it was “one small step  
18          for a man, one giant leap for mankind”; Aldrin soon  
19          followed and planted an American flag, but omitted  
20          claiming the land for the United States as had rou-  
21          tinely been done during European exploration of the  
22          Americas.

23          (13) The 2 Moon walkers left behind an Amer-  
24          ican flag and a plaque bearing the inscription:  
25          “Here Men From The Planet Earth First Set Foot

1       Upon the Moon. Jul. 1969 A.D. We Came in Peace  
2       for All Mankind.”.

3               (14) On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Tel-  
4       lescope was launched into space aboard the STS-31  
5       mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery and since  
6       then the Hubble has revolutionized astronomy while  
7       expanding our knowledge of the universe and inspir-  
8       ing millions of scientists, students, and members of  
9       the public with its unprecedented deep and clear im-  
10      ages of space.

11              (15) On July 4, 1997, the Mars Pathfinder  
12      landed on Mars and on January 29, 1998, an Inter-  
13      national Space Station agreement among 15 coun-  
14      tries met in Washington, DC, to sign agreements to  
15      establish the framework for cooperation among the  
16      partners on the design, development, operation, and  
17      utilization of the Space Station.

18              (16) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
19      ministration’s stunning achievements over the last  
20      50 years have been won for all mankind at great  
21      cost and sacrifice; in the quest to explore the uni-  
22      verse, many National Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
23      istration employees have lost their lives, including  
24      the crews of Apollo 1, the Space Shuttle Challenger,  
25      and the Space Shuttle Columbia.

1           (17) The success of the United States space ex-  
2           ploration program in the 20th Century augurs well  
3           for its continued leadership in the 21st Century; this  
4           leadership is attributable to the remarkable and in-  
5           dispensable partnership between the National Aero-  
6           nautics and Space Administration and its 10 space  
7           and research centers as follows:

8                   (A) From small spacecraft to supercom-  
9                   puters, science missions and payloads to ther-  
10                  mal protection systems, information technology  
11                  to aerospace, the Ames Research Center in  
12                  California's Silicon Valley provides products,  
13                  technologies, and services that enable NASA  
14                  missions and expand human knowledge.

15                  (B) The Dryden Flight Research Center,  
16                  the leading center for innovative flight research.

17                  (C) The Glenn Research Center, which de-  
18                  velops power, propulsion, and communication  
19                  technologies for space flight systems and aero-  
20                  nautics research.

21                  (D) The Goddard Space Flight Center,  
22                  which specializes in research to expand knowl-  
23                  edge on the Earth and its environment, the  
24                  solar system, and the universe through observa-  
25                  tions from space.

1           (E) The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the  
2           leading center for robotic exploration of the  
3           Solar System.

4           (F) The Johnson Space Center, which  
5           manages the development, testing, production,  
6           and delivery of all United States human space-  
7           craft and all human spacecraft-related func-  
8           tions.

9           (G) The Kennedy Space Center, the gate-  
10          way to the Universe and world leader in pre-  
11          paring and launching missions around the  
12          Earth and beyond.

13          (H) The Langley Research Center, which  
14          continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and  
15          space research for aerospace, atmospheric  
16          sciences, and technology commercialization to  
17          improve the way the world lives.

18          (I) The Marshall Space Flight Center, a  
19          world leader in developing space transportation  
20          and propulsion systems, engineers the future to  
21          accelerate exploration and scientific discovery.

22          (J) The Stennis Space Center, which is re-  
23          sponsible for rocket propulsion testing and for  
24          partnering with industry to develop and imple-  
25          ment remote sensing technology.

1           (18) The United States should pay tribute to  
2           the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,  
3           and to its successful partnerships with the space and  
4           research centers, by minting and issuing a com-  
5           memorative silver dollar coin.

6           (19) The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a  
7           commemorative coin would generate valuable fund-  
8           ing for the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-  
9           istration Families Assistance Fund for the purposes  
10          of providing need-based financial assistance to the  
11          families of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-  
12          ministration personnel who die as a result of injuries  
13          suffered in the performance of their official duties.

14 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

15          (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the  
16          50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aer-  
17          onautics and Space Administration, the Secretary of the  
18          Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
19          retary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

20               (1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000  
21          \$50 gold coins which shall—

22                       (A) weigh 33.931 grams;

23                       (B) have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters;

24                       and

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

1           (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 300,000  
2           \$1 coins of each of the 9 designs specified in section  
3           3(a)(3)(B), which shall—

4                   (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

6                   (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-  
7           cent copper.

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

11          (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section  
12          5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted  
13          under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

14          (d) MINTAGE LEVEL LIMIT.—Notwithstanding the  
15          mintage level limit described under section  
16          5112(m)(2)(A)(ii) of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-  
17          retary of the Treasury may mint and issue not more than  
18          300,000 of each of the 9 \$1 coins authorized to be minted  
19          under this Act.

20       **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

21          (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

22                  (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
23                  minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 50  
24                  years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of  
25                  the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

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

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

5           (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,  
6 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
7 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”, and such other  
8 inscriptions as the Secretary may determine to  
9 be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

10          (3) COIN IMAGES.—

11           (A) \$50 COINS.—

12           (i) OBERSE.—The obverse of the  
13 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear  
14 an image of the sun.

15           (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the  
16 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear  
17 a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the  
18 United States astronauts who lost their  
19 lives in the line of duty over the course of  
20 the space program.

21           (iii) HIGH RELIEF.—The design and  
22 inscriptions on the obverse and reverse of  
23 the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall  
24 be in high relief.

25           (B) \$1 COINS.—

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

6 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1  
7 coins issued under this Act shall bear dif-  
8 ferent designs each of which shall be em-  
9 blematic of the contributions of the re-  
10 search and space centers, subject to the  
11 following requirements:

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

23 (II) JUPITER COIN.—The reverse  
24 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
25 which bear an image of the planet Ju-

1 piter on the obverse shall include a  
2 scientifically accurate depiction of the  
3 Galilean moon Europa and depict  
4 both a past and future mission to Eu-  
5 ropa.

6 (III) SATURN COIN.—The reverse  
7 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act  
8 which bear an image of the planet  
9 Saturn on the obverse shall include a  
10 scientifically accurate depiction of the  
11 moon Titan and depict both a past  
12 and a future mission to Titan.

13 (IV) PLUTO (AND OTHER DWARF  
14 PLANETS) COIN.—The reverse of the  
15 \$1 coins issued under this Act which  
16 bear an image of the planet Pluto on  
17 the obverse shall include a design that  
18 is emblematic of telescopic exploration  
19 of deep space by the National Aero-  
20 nautics and Space Administration and  
21 the ongoing search for Earth-like  
22 planets orbiting other stars.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United  
23 States Mint may be used to strike any particular combina-  
24 tion of denomination and quality of the coins minted under  
25 this Act.

1 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may  
2 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year  
3 period beginning on January 1, 2008.

4 (d) ISSUANCE OF GOLD COINS.—Each gold coin  
5 minted under this Act may be issued only as part of a  
6 complete set with 1 of each of the 9 \$1 coins minted under  
7 this Act.

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

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

12 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

18 (b) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

1           (c) PRESENTATION.—In addition to the issuance of  
2 coins under this Act in such other methods of presentation  
3 as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appro-  
4 priate, the Secretary shall provide, as a sale option, a pres-  
5 entation case which displays the \$50 gold coin in the cen-  
6 ter surrounded by the \$1 silver coins in elliptical orbits.  
7 All such presentation cases shall bear a plaque with appro-  
8 priate inscriptions that include the names and dates of the  
9 spacecraft missions on which United States astronauts  
10 lost their lives over the course of the space program and  
11 the names of such astronauts.

12 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

15                 (1) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$50  
16 coin.

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

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

22                 (1) The first \$4,000,000 available for distribu-  
23 tion under this section, to the NASA Family Assist-  
24 ance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based  
25 financial assistance to the families of NASA per-

1       sonnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the  
2       performance of their official duties.

3               (2) Of amounts available for distribution after  
4       the payment under paragraph (1),  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the next  
5       \$1,000,000 to each of the following:

6               (A) The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Edu-  
7       cational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foun-  
8       dation for the purposes of improving and  
9       strengthening the process of teaching and  
10      learning science, math, and technology at all  
11      educational levels, elementary through college  
12      through the promotion of innovative educational  
13      programs.

14              (B) The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for  
15      Excellence for the purposes of supporting the  
16      work of the Foundation in building critical  
17      thinking skills, experiential teaching methods,  
18      science literacy, and integrated approaches to  
19      learning and individual responsibility in achiev-  
20      ing excellence.

21              (3) The remainder of the amounts available for  
22      distribution after the payments under paragraphs  
23      (1) and (2), to the Secretary of the Smithsonian In-  
24      stitution for the preservation, maintenance, and dis-  
25      play of space artifacts at the National Air and Space

1 Museum (including the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Cen-  
2 ter).

3 (c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund,  
4 the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational Science Literacy  
5 Foundation, the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excel-  
6 lence, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution  
7 shall be subject to the audit requirements of section  
8 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard  
9 to the amounts received under subsection (b).

10 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
11 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
12 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
13 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
14 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
15 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2  
16 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under  
17 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in  
18 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-  
19 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out  
20 this subsection.

21 **SEC. 8. BRONZE DUPLICATES.**

22 The Secretary may strike and sell bronze duplicates  
23 of the \$50 gold coins authorized under this Act, at a price  
24 the Secretary determines to be appropriate. Such dupli-

- 1 cates shall not be considered to be United States coins
- 2 and shall not be legal tender.

Passed the House of Representatives July 30, 2007.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

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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.