

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1787

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2025

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. MEUSER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

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 “Roberto Clemente
5 Commemorative Coin Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Roberto Clemente Walker was born on Au-
9 gust 18, 1934, to Don Melchor Clemente and Luisa

1 Walker in Barrio San Antón, Carolina, Puerto Rico,
2 as the youngest of 7 children.

3 (2) Clemente excelled in athletics as a young-
4 ster and, at the age of 17, was playing for the
5 Santurce Cangrejeros “Crabbers” of the Puerto
6 Rican Baseball League.

7 (3) In 1954, the Pittsburgh Pirates selected
8 Clemente in the first round of the Major League
9 Baseball Rule 5 draft.

10 (4) Pirates center fielder Earl Smith wore jer-
11 sey number 21 until he parted ways with the team
12 in April 1955, and Clemente wore number 13 until
13 then.

14 (5) In 1955, Clemente made his Major League
15 debut as he went on to play for the Pittsburgh Pi-
16 rates, starting as a right fielder.

17 (6) When the team traveled to Richmond, Vir-
18 ginia, for games or Florida for spring training,
19 Clemente encountered Jim Crow laws for the first
20 time when the Black players had to stay at a sepa-
21 rate, inferior hotel and were refused the option to
22 dine with their White counterparts.

23 (7) Clemente was known for being a proud
24 Afro-Latino and protested the discrimination that
25 Latin and Black ball players encountered.

1 (8) Clemente was known for defending the
2 rights of Black and Brown people, both on the field
3 and in the streets.

4 (9) After the assassination of Martin Luther
5 King, Jr., in 1968, Clemente and his teammates re-
6 fused to play until after the funerals and even wrote
7 a public statement showing their respect for Dr.
8 King.

9 (10) Clemente became a union leader in the in-
10 cipient Major League Baseball Players Association
11 and defended players' rights to demand better work-
12 ing conditions and benefits.

13 (11) In every city where the Pirates played,
14 Clemente visited sick children in hospitals.

15 (12) Clemente established training clinics, pro-
16 viding baseball lessons and fun for boys and girls in
17 Pittsburgh, his home island of Puerto Rico, and
18 throughout Latin America.

19 (13) In 1958, Clemente enlisted in the United
20 States Marine Corps Reserve after the 1958 season
21 and spent 6 months on active duty at Parris Island,
22 South Carolina, and Camp LeJeune, North Caro-
23 lina.

1 (14) Clemente served until 1964 and was in-
2 ducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame
3 in 2003.

4 (15) By the end of his career, Clemente had
5 joined the exclusive 3,000-hit club, was selected to
6 15 All-Star teams, and won 12 Gold Gloves, 2 World
7 Series, and a National League MVP award.

8 (16) In Clemente's 18 seasons with Pittsburgh
9 he won 4 batting titles, hit 240 home runs, and
10 posted a lifetime .317 batting average.

11 (17) In late 1972, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake
12 ravaged Managua, Nicaragua, and killed 5,000 peo-
13 ple.

14 (18) In his philanthropic spirit, Clemente sent
15 shipments of humanitarian aid to the country.

16 (19) After learning that 3 previous shipments
17 had been diverted by corrupt Somoza Government
18 officials, Clemente decided to accompany one of the
19 aid shipments.

20 (20) The four-engine DC-7 plane Clemente
21 chartered for a flight on New Year's Eve crashed in
22 the Atlantic Ocean immediately after takeoff from
23 the coast of Isla Verde, Puerto Rico.

24 (21) On December 31, 1972, Clemente died in
25 the plane crash at the age of 38 years young.

1 (22) Since 1973, Major League Baseball gives
2 out the Roberto Clemente Award to one player in
3 the league who “best exemplifies the game of base-
4 ball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the
5 individual’s contribution to his team”.

6 (23) In 2002, Major League Baseball declared
7 the first annual Roberto Clemente Day.

8 (24) In 2021, Major League Baseball an-
9 nounced September 15 would be the permanent date
10 of Roberto Clemente Day to coincide with the begin-
11 ning of Hispanic Heritage month.

12 (25) Clemente was the first Latino player to ac-
13 complish many feats in Major League Baseball.

14 (26) Clemente was the first Puerto Rican, and
15 first person of Latino heritage, to win a World Se-
16 ries as a starter, be named league MVP, be named
17 World Series MVP, and be elected to the Hall of
18 Fame.

19 (27) Clemente was posthumously elected to the
20 National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973, being the
21 first National League baseball player to receive the
22 mandatory 5-year waiting period waiver.

23 (28) Clemente was a legend in life and death,
24 a baseball star, a humanitarian activist, and a sym-
25 bol of Latin American pride;

1 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

2 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treas-
3 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)
4 shall mint and issue the following coin:

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

7 (A) weigh 8.359 grams;

8 (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

9 (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

10 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000
11 \$1 coins, which shall—

12 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

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

14 (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

15 (3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more
16 than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

17 (A) weigh 11.34 grams;

18 (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

19 (C) be minted to the specifications for half-
20 dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title
21 31, United States Code.

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

25 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
26 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins

1 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-
2 matic items.

3 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

4 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins
6 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life
7 of Roberto Clemente including his human rights ac-
8 tivism and baseball stardom legacy. At least one ob-
9 verse design shall bear the image of Roberto
10 Clemente.

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

13 (A) an inscription of Roberto Clemente;

14 (B) a designation of the denomination of
15 the coin;

16 (C) an inscription of the year “2027”; and

17 (D) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,
18 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-
19 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

20 (b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted
21 under this Act shall be—

22 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
23 with the Roberto Clemente Foundation, Roberto
24 Clemente’s living family members, and the Commis-
25 sion of the Fine Arts; and

1 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory
2 Committee.

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

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

6 (b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
7 issue coins under this Act only during the calendar year
8 beginning on January 1, 2027.

9 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

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

13 (1) the face value of the coins;

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

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

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

22 (c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

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

4 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this
6 Act shall include a surcharge of—

- 7 (1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;
8 (2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and
9 (3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

10 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
11 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
12 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
13 shall be paid to the Roberto Clemente Foundation for ap-
14 plication to general expenses associated with the fulfill-
15 ment of the mission of the Roberto Clemente Foundation
16 including for costs associated with educational, youth
17 sports, and disaster relief historic preservation—

18 (c) AUDITS.—The Roberto Clemente Foundation,
19 shall be subject to the audit requirements of section
20 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard
21 to the amounts received under subsection (b).

22 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
23 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
24 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
25 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin

1 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
2 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
3 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
4 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
5 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
6 retary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

7 **SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.**

8 The Secretary shall take such actions as may be nec-
9 essary to ensure that—

10 (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act
11 will not result in any net cost to the United States
12 Government; and

13 (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges,
14 shall be disbursed to any recipient designated in sec-
15 tion 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing
16 all of the coins authorized by this Act (including
17 labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead ex-
18 penses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the
19 United States Treasury, consistent with sections
20 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States
21 Code.

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