

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3180

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration  
of the legacy of the U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 13, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MARINO, Mr. DENT, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FATAH, and Mr. CRITZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins  
in commemoration of the legacy of the U.S.S. Cruiser  
Olympia.

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 “U.S.S. Cruiser Olym-  
5       pia Commemorative Coin Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia is the world's  
2           oldest steel war ship afloat. She is the sole surviving  
3           United States naval ship of the Spanish-American  
4           war and revived American Steel Navy. Launched in  
5           1892 and serving with distinction in two wars, the  
6           U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia is emblematic of the mo-  
7           ment the United States became a global power.

8           (2) The U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia is a National  
9           Historic Landmark listed on the National Register  
10          of Historic Places (1964), a National Historic Engi-  
11          neering Landmark (1977), a National Historic Mari-  
12          time Landmark (1988), and was awarded "Official  
13          Project" status of Save America's Treasures pro-  
14          gram (1999).

15          (3) The U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia was the flag-  
16          ship of the Asiatic Squadron and is the only vessel  
17          from the Spanish-American War still in existence.  
18          Commissioned on February 5, 1895, she visited  
19          ports in China, Japan, Hong Kong, and the Phil-  
20          ippines.

21          (4) When war was declared on April 25, 1898,  
22          between the United States and Spain, Commodore  
23          George Dewey made the U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia his  
24          flagship under the command of Captain Gridley and  
25          entered Manila Bay on the morning of May 1, 1898,

1 to confront the Spanish ships and coastal artillery.  
2 At approximately 5:40 in the morning, Commodore  
3 Dewey instructed the captain, “You may fire when  
4 ready, Gridley”. By 7:30 a.m., the Spanish squadron  
5 and shore batteries were destroyed and Dewey ac-  
6 cepted the surrender of the Spanish at Manila.

7 (5) The U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia became famous  
8 as the first victors of the War, and returned to the  
9 United States for celebrations in Boston and New  
10 York. During the early twentieth century, it served  
11 in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and, during World  
12 War I, became the flagship of the American fleet.

13 (6) In 1921, the U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia was  
14 honored to carry the first American unknown soldier  
15 from the port of Le Havre, France, to Washington,  
16 DC. On November 10, 1921, the unknown soldier  
17 lay in state in the United States Capitol, and then  
18 was transported by caisson to Arlington National  
19 Cemetery for interment. Accompanying the casket  
20 were President Warren Harding, officials of the  
21 United States government, and World War I vet-  
22 erans.

23 (7) The U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia was decommis-  
24 sioned in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in the winter  
25 of 1922 and has rested beside the city since that

1 time. It is permanently docked at Penn’s Landing,  
2 Philadelphia, open for public viewing, and is one of  
3 only four warships representative of the Spanish-  
4 American war period that exists in the world.

5 (8) The Friends of the Cruiser Olympia is a  
6 non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to re-  
7 storing and preserving the national treasure of the  
8 U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia and to provide education for  
9 Americans and foreign visitors regarding the impact  
10 it had on American and world history.

11 (9) The Friends of the Cruiser Olympia is a  
12 non-governmental member-based organization that is  
13 entirely dependant on funds from members, dona-  
14 tions, and sponsorships for its mission, which is to  
15 restore and preserve the U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia.

16 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATION.**

17 (a) \$1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
18 ury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”)  
19 shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins in  
20 commemoration of the legacy of the U.S.S. Cruiser Olym-  
21 pia, each of which shall—

22 (1) weigh 26.73 grams;

23 (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

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

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

4 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections  
5 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins  
6 minted under this Act shall be considered to be numis-  
7 matic items.

8 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

9 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins  
11 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the  
12 courage, pride, sacrifice, sense of duty, and history  
13 of the U.S.S. Cruiser Olympia.

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

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

17 (B) an inscription of the year “2016”; and

18 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,

19 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-  
20 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

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

23 (1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation  
24 with the Friends of the Cruiser Olympia and the  
25 Commission of 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, 2016.

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

10          (a) **SALE PRICE.**—The coins under this Act shall be  
11 sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum 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 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

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

4 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of  
5 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by  
6 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act  
7 shall be paid to the Friends of the Cruiser Olympia for  
8 the purpose of restoring and preserving the U.S.S. Cruiser  
9 Olympia.

10 (c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United  
11 States shall have the rights to examine such books,  
12 records, documents, and other data of the Friends of the  
13 Cruiser Olympia as may be related to the expenditures of  
14 amounts paid under subsection (b).

15 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),  
16 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance  
17 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as  
18 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin  
19 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-  
20 gram issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title  
21 31, United States Code. The Secretary of the Treasury  
22 may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

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