

give people opportunities after prison—jobs, therapy, intense therapy, job training, and careers afterward—they don't want to go back to prison. They don't want to go back to jail.

This body, this Chamber, has a long history of working together to reduce the rate of recidivism. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to increase transparency in the Federal prison system and provide much-needed recourse for incarcerated persons experiencing abuse. Nobody wants that to happen.

Madam Speaker, I encourage colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very necessary legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3019, 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.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1615

WORKING DOG COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 807) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 807

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 “Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Dogs going back thousands of years have been tied to humans whether for protection, companionship, or assisting in daily activities.

(2) The United States had an unofficial canine military presence assisting soldiers in the Civil War and World War I, but military K-9s did not become officially recognized until March 13, 1942. During the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq it is estimated that the United States military employed near 2,500 K-9s.

(3) Military K-9s have seen service in every major United States combat since World War I and have been praised by military leadership as an indispensable asset for military, police, government, and private security teams around the world.

(4) In 2000, Congress passed “Robby’s Law” which allowed for the adoption of military K-9s by law enforcement agencies, former handlers, and other care groups.

(5) Since 2000, military K-9s have left service and gone onto work explosive detection for police forces, and work as service dogs for veterans and families.

(6) Beyond their military working capacity, working dogs provide enhanced mobility assist and renewed independence for the injured and disabled. Service dogs are able to support veterans struggling after war, hear for those who are deaf, see for those who are blind, and even sense changes in a person’s body before a seizure. Working dogs play a vital role in improving the lives of many.

(7) The service dog programs of America’s VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to United States veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities.

(8) America’s VetDogs provides—

(A) guide dogs for individuals who are blind or have low vision;

(B) hearing dogs for those who have lost their hearing later in life by alerting to alarms, door bells, sirens, and more;

(C) service dogs for those with other physical disabilities that are specially trained to provide balance, retrieve dropped items, open and close doors, turn on and off lights, carry a backpack, and more;

(D) facility dogs which are specially trained to spend time working with wounded veterans recovering at military hospitals and veterans medical centers;

(E) dogs that work with physical and occupational therapists as they treat soldiers and become an essential part of the healing process; and

(F) PTSD service dogs that are trained to help mitigate the symptoms of PTSD by providing the emotional and physical support a veteran may need.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

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

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

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

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) be struck on a planchet having a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

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

(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. DESIGNS OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the vast contributions that working dogs serve in society to include the range of services that these dogs provide in detection, military service, therapy and assistance.

(2) DESIGNS 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 “2027”; and

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

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

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

(A) America’s VetDogs; and

(B) 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 1 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 minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2027.

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(a) 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—

(1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

(2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

(3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to America’s VetDogs for application to general expenses associated with the fulfillment of the mission of America’s VetDogs, including for costs associated with—

(1) personnel related to training, dog care, and consumer needs;

(2) consultants to facilitate the training of America’s VetDogs Certified Service Dog Instructors; and

(3) travel, room and board for clients served by America’s VetDogs.

(c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have the right to examine such books, records, documents, and other data of each of the organizations referred to in subsection (b) as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid under that subsection.

(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.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

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

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 9. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) **STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. **McHENRY**) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. **FOSTER**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **McHENRY**. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. **McHENRY**. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 807, the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act, a bill which I am honored to have introduced along with the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts (Mr. **McGOVERN**), the ranking member of the Rules Committee.

My good friend and I introduced this bill this Congress, H.R. 807, better known as the dog coin bill in the Halls of Congress. It has been a project that both I and my staff have been passionate about since I introduced this bill last Congress.

This legislation not only honors those service dogs, but the working dogs who protect Americans at home and abroad. Most of us passed a working dog when we came through security today here in Congress. They are so embedded in our daily lives here on Capitol Hill that we often pass them without notice.

Since I introduced this bill last Congress, I think we have been noticing these working dogs everywhere we go. I am grateful to have gained this new appreciation myself. However, this newfound awareness did not come from merely introducing a piece of legislation. It came from spending time with

extraordinary people that benefit from the work of America's VetDogs, and I would like to briefly highlight a few of them.

U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Christopher Sunday was medically retired in 2011 due to injuries sustained in combat after leading missions during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned home and struggled, like many veterans, with post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

Fortunately, in 2021, Chris was matched with his PTSD-trained service canine named Eddie. Chris said about his new companion: Eddie helped me find my independence again. I was able to finish my doctorate and become a mental health director to help incarcerated individuals because of my service dog.

Navy Corpsman Joe Worley is a familiar face on Capitol Hill, traveling from office to office with his service dog, Galaxie. In 2004, as his medical convoy was headed back to his base in Fallujah, Iraq, the first vehicle in the convoy hit an improvised explosive device. Worley jumped out to help his wounded comrades, ran a few yards and was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. It did not explode, but it took off his left leg. He was then shot six times. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart.

Since these injuries, Joe has been paired with two separate service dogs. He has also joined America's VetDogs full-time as its veteran liaison, and what a great job he does.

Finally, Corpsman Paul Sullivan sat down in my office and told me about his work as a first responder in Anne Arundel County. He explained how his service dog, Sal, helped him escape the night terrors triggered by PTSD. He described Sal as his dream catcher, allowing him to sleep again and go about his daily life.

I thank America's VetDogs team for their relentless work to get this bill to the floor today; Deana Stone, who herself spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force; John Miller; Bonnie Singer; Trey Matchin; and the countless volunteers and puppy handlers who knocked on every single door on the House and Senate sides of the Capitol. Their impact is evident today because of the cosponsors we have on this bill and the support we have for this bill.

For a commemorative coin or a Congressional Gold Medal to come to the floor, it must receive 290 cosponsors. Gaining that many signatures is no easy task, but those individuals worked so hard to spread the word that this is more than just a coin bill. This is a bill that will improve the quality of life for our wounded veterans and first responders, something we can all get behind.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member **McGOVERN** for his partnership. His work on H.R. 807, as well as his previous work to permanently authorize the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Pro-

gram, is the perfect example of bipartisan collaboration to prioritize the treatment and care of wounded veterans, and this bill will help enable the treatment and care of our wounded veterans and to honor the service dogs who are among us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 807, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 807, the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by Representative **McHENRY**.

This bill, introduced by Representative **McHENRY** and Representative **McGOVERN**, will require the U.S. Treasury and Mint to develop a coin series honoring the critical role that working dogs play in our society.

For decades, working service dogs have provided a range of services, from detection, military service, therapy, assistance, and mobility to Active-Duty servicemembers and first responders with disabilities. Their work and companionship have brought immeasurable growth and healing for veterans and others with disabilities.

As the number of service dogs given to veterans with disabilities and PTSD continues to increase, this bill is an important step in giving these loyal and hardworking service dogs the love and the recognition that they deserve.

I thank Representative **McHENRY** and Representative **McGOVERN**, two ideological comrades if there ever were such, for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am personally proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. **McHENRY**. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. **SELF**), my friend.

Mr. **SELF**. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act.

This bill honors the important role that working and service dogs play in the lives of Americans, one of whom is a constituent of mine, Special Operator Jason Morgan.

Jason's story is absolutely incredible. He was found face down in a swamp in Central America after a mission went wrong. He had a shattered spine, collapsed lungs, and numerous broken bones. It was a miracle he even survived.

After waking up from a coma that lasted for months, doctors told him he would never walk again. He then went through many painful surgeries, with his life hanging by a thread many times.

When he finally left the hospital, he was in a wheelchair and had memory loss. His life seemed to be falling apart. He was left to care for his three young sons on his own. Everything changed when Jason met Napal, a black Labrador Retriever.

With Napal by his side, Jason's life and his family's life changed completely. Napal helped Jason overcome his paralysis. Jason completed a marathon and won awards and medals in the Wounded Warrior Games. More than that, this amazing service dog helped heal Jason's family and taught him how to be the father his kids needed.

I have personally seen Napal many times steal the show with his personality and his love of life and his dedication to service. Napal's tour of duty has now been completed, and Yago has taken up his duties.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, as we thank our veterans and Active-Duty military servicemembers, we must not forget the crucial role that service dogs play on and off the battlefield. As a scientist, I note that in a recent study conducted on veterans with service dogs, veterans with service dog companions had stress hormones more like those in healthy adults without PTSD than veterans without service dogs.

Promoting the health and mental well-being of our veterans is both a collective and an individual endeavor. This legislation furthers those efforts and ensures that we recognize the important role that service dogs play in protecting our Nation, its Active-Duty servicemembers, and our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I reiterate how important this bill is. Congress can direct the Mint to strike a coin, and the proceeds of the sale of that coin can benefit society in a large-scale fashion. We have a threshold in Congress that says there has to be 290 cosponsors for a bill to do that. It has to have wide bipartisan support, and it has to be in the greater interests of the country if we are going to do this because it is a constitutional function where Congress steps in and directs the Mint to create a coin. Then we can direct the proceeds to actually help important nonprofits in this country.

When we have a group like America's VetDogs, they do such important work, and they have shown the societal benefit of what they have done. For us to act today to acknowledge the role of service dogs and then get the benefit back into this community to help veterans suffering with PTSD and for us to have service dogs available across the country is a very special thing.

As I said, it took a lot of work, and Members of Congress are people, too. Madam Speaker, we often don't acknowledge that, but we are people, too. We are emotional, too. Things get really emotional here on Capitol Hill, and the way to bring down emotion just a

little bit is to have a little, good boy come by and wag their tail at you and ask to have just a little pet. Those are the dogs, the service animals, that are around on Capitol Hill.

Madam Speaker, we have some service dogs that are in the gallery today watching what is happening here. I think because they are here it has been a little less emotional. We have actually been a little more balanced in how we have debated, and so, even if they are just wagging their tails in the gallery, it brings a sense of calm to us as policymakers.

It has been a welcome thing to have those service dogs around the Capitol complex driving up cosponsorship, but it couldn't be done without the good work of staff.

From my staff, I thank my good friend, Phil Poe, who has worked with me for nearly a decade here in D.C. It has been the work of Phil to direct this whole process and to get the cosponsors and work with other offices to show interest. Without that definitive work, we would not be here today with the cosponsorship we have here.

I finish by acknowledging the important work of Phil Poe in bringing this bill to the House floor. I thank my colleagues for that indulgence to thank staff because the staff are what make this operation actually work. We can never thank them enough for the input that they make into law, the dedication they have to our constitutional republic, and to the American people.

Phil is one of the finest in the business, and I thank Phil for his good work.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 807, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1097) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1097

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 "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Commander (CDR) Everett Alvarez, Jr., served with distinction in the Vietnam war and made historic sacrifices for the United States as the first United States pilot to be shot down and captured during the Vietnam war and the second-longest prisoner of war in United States history, surviving over eight and half years in captivity.

(2) CDR Alvarez was born in Salinas, California, in 1937, and was the grandchild of Mexican immigrants.

(3) CDR Alvarez attended Salinas Union High School and Hartnell College and received a bachelor of science degree from Santa Clara University.

(4) In 1960, CDR Alvarez joined the United States Navy and was commissioned as Ensign.

(5) After receiving his commission, CDR Alvarez attended flight training at the Naval Air Basic Training Command in Pensacola, Florida.

(6) In June 1961, CDR Alvarez was transferred to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, where he trained until December 1961.

(7) CDR Alvarez was promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade) in April 1962.

(8) In June 1962, CDR Alvarez joined Attack Squadron 144, nicknamed the "Road-runners", which was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin prior to the United States entrance in the Vietnam war in August 1964.

(9) On August 5, 1964, while flying Operation Pierce Arrow from the USS Constellation near the Vietnam-China border, CDR Alvarez's A-4 Skyhawk was shot down and he was captured by a Vietnamese fishing vessel.

(10) Upon capture, CDR Alvarez was taken to the Hòa Lò Prison in Hanoi, known to many former prisoners as the "Hanoi Hilton".

(11) CDR Alvarez spent his first thirteen months, eight days, and five hours in isolation.

(12) While at Hòa Lò, CDR Alvarez was repeatedly beaten and tortured and was fed inedible meals and suffered malnourishment.

(13) In September 1965, CDR Alvarez was moved to the "Briarpatch", a prison camp west of Hanoi, with no electricity or running water.

(14) Despite torture and interrogation, CDR Alvarez remained loyal to the United States and assisted other American prisoners of war.

(15) CDR Alvarez, with his own actions, encouraged and inspired fellow prisoners of war to "Return with Honor", which meant keeping their integrity in the face of torture and not cooperating with or divulging information to the enemy, so they could return home having remained loyal to the United States.

(16) At great risk, CDR Alvarez helped spread the means of communication, including the tap code and the mute hand code, to keep up spirits and stay organized.

(17) On July 6, 1966, CDR Alvarez and 51 other American prisoners of war were forced to march in the "Hanoi Parade" where he was abused and attacked by mobs.

(18) CDR Alvarez was released February 12, 1973, after spending 3,113 days in captivity, or eight years and six months.

(19) Following his release and hospitalization, CDR Alvarez resumed his Naval service, returning to Naval Air Station Kingsville for refresher flight training.

(20) CDR Alvarez attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and received a master's degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis in 1976.