

pay tribute to acts of extraordinary valor committed by public safety officers. They gave their utmost and now so should their government in honoring them.

H.R. 4090 will establish a medal given by the President in the name of the Congress to a public safety officer who is cited by the Attorney General for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. The legislation creates a Medal of Valor review board composed of 11 members appointed by Congress and the President who will serve 4-year terms. The members of the board shall be persons with knowledge or expertise in the field of public safety. The board will be staffed by a new office within the Department of Justice called the National Medal Office. The board would be charged with reviewing the applications which the office receives each year, to select which names to present to the Attorney General as nominees for the Medal of Valor. They may conduct hearings and take testimony as necessary.

In a given year, the board may choose not to select any names, but it is limited to no more than six per year. This way the medal is truly for extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty. I believe that limiting the number of medals given each year will help retain the high honor which I envision the award to represent.

Mr. Speaker, White House supports passage of this long overdue legislation. And also I would like to thank the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Troopers Coalition, the National Law Enforcement Alliance of America, and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association for their support.

Mr. Speaker, we all look forward to that momentous day when not one new name is added to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall. While we continue to nurture that hope, we will let this medal represent our gratitude and respect to heroic law enforcement officers all across this Nation. I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 4090.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased on behalf of the minority to give my strong support to this legislation. The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), who is one of the sponsors, very eloquently outlined what the bill does.

We have been the beneficiaries in recent years in particular of the excellent work done by law enforcement people. There is no greater responsibility for government than the protection of its citizens. Until fairly recently, there were serious gaps in our ability to provide that protection in many parts of this country. We still are not where we should be. But across this country there has been significant improvements in this government and

State and local government's ability to protect its citizens against those who would prey on them. And, obviously, one of those entities most responsible for this are law enforcement officers.

We have ended a sterile debate, I hope, as to whether we needed more law enforcement officers or better procedures. Obviously, the answer is both. And to a great extent we have had both. I do want to note that providing well-trained, well-equipped law enforcement officers in adequate numbers is a function of government. It is supported by taxes. It is one of those things which, if we are going to do it well we will have to have a government that has the resources to provide it, because this is not something that we can do in our own individual capacities.

As part of that effort, it is entirely appropriate that we single out for a medal of this sort individual officers who from time to time show extraordinary valor. We should be very clear, there are no nonvalorous people in law enforcement. One does not strap on a weapon and put themselves out front as a target for the criminal element; one does not insert themselves as a shield between law-abiding citizens and their property and those who would viciously take advantage of it if they are not a person of valor.

We saw that in the murder of those two brave officers here in the Capitol that my colleague alluded to. The first one noted, Officer Chestnut, was at his post and he was unfortunately the target. Because we say to law enforcement officials, "Arm yourself and put yourself out there," and sadly we have no alternative to this, the vicious will get the first shot. So we do not mean to suggest by this that we are singling out those who are brave and not others. There is an inherent bravery in anyone who undertakes that job of being a law enforcement officer. And that is why it is appropriate that we talk here about extraordinary demonstrations of bravery.

So as a way of honoring all those in law enforcement who literally put their lives at risk every single day to protect the rest of us, as we were so tragically reminded here, and to recognize as a mark of the gratitude of a generous society those extraordinary efforts, this is an entirely reasonable piece of legislation and I support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for his excellent words in support of this legislation, and I wholeheartedly agree with his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4090, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THOMAS ALVA EDISON COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 678) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the birth of Thomas Alva Edison, to redesign the half dollar circulating coin for 1997 to commemorate Thomas Edison, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 678

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 "Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Thomas Alva Edison, one of America's greatest inventors, was born on February 11, 1847, in Milan, Ohio.

(2) The inexhaustible energy and genius of Thomas A. Edison produced more than 1,300 inventions in his lifetime, including the incandescent light bulb and the phonograph.

(3) In 1928, Thomas A. Edison received the Congressional gold medal "for development and application of inventions that have revolutionized civilization in the last century".

(4) 2004 will mark the 125th anniversary of the invention of the light bulb by Thomas A. Edison in 1879, the 1st practical incandescent electric lamp.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATION.—In commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the invention of the light bulb by Thomas A. Edison, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, each of which shall—

(1) weigh 26.73 grams;

(2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

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

(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 section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.

The Secretary may obtain silver for minting coins under this Act from any available source, including stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

SEC. 5. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the light bulb and the many inventions made by Thomas A. Edison throughout his prolific life.

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

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

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

(3) OBVERSE OF COIN.—The obverse of each coin minted under this Act shall bear the likeness of Thomas A. Edison.

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

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

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

(b) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act beginning on January 1, 2004.

(c) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No coins may be minted under this Act after December 31, 2004.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

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

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, the first \$5,000,000 of the surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be paid by the Secretary as follows:

(1) MUSEUM OF ARTS AND HISTORY.—Up to 1/8 to the Museum of Arts and History, in the city of Port Huron, Michigan, for the endowment and construction of a special museum on the life of Thomas A. Edison in Port Huron.

(2) EDISON BIRTHPLACE ASSOCIATION.—Up to 1/8 to the Edison Birthplace Association, Incorporated, in Milan, Ohio, to assist in the efforts of the association to raise an endowment as a permanent source of support for the repair and maintenance of the Thomas A. Edison birthplace, a national historic landmark.

(3) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.—Up to 1/8 to the National Park Service, for use in protecting, restoring, and cataloging historic documents and objects at the "invention factory" of Thomas A. Edison in West Orange, New Jersey.

(4) EDISON PLAZA MUSEUM.—Up to 1/8 to the Edison Plaza Museum in Beaumont, Texas, for expanding educational programs on Thomas A. Edison and for the repair and maintenance of the museum.

(5) EDISON WINTER HOME AND MUSEUM.—Up to 1/8 to the Edison Winter Home and Museum in Fort Myers, Florida, for historic preservation, restoration, and maintenance of the historic home and chemical laboratory of Thomas A. Edison.

(6) EDISON INSTITUTE.—Up to 1/8 to the Edison Institute, otherwise known as "Greenfield Village", in Dearborn, Michigan, for use in maintaining and expanding displays and educational programs associated with Thomas A. Edison.

(7) EDISON MEMORIAL TOWER.—Up to 1/8 to the Edison Memorial Tower in Edison, New Jersey, for the preservation, restoration, and expansion of the tower and museum.

(8) HALL OF ELECTRICAL HISTORY.—Up to 1/8 to the Schenectady Museum Association in Schenectady, New York, for the historic preservation of materials of Thomas A. Edison and for the development of educational programs associated with Thomas A. Edison.

(c) AUDITS.—Each organization that receives any payment from the Secretary under this section shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 678, the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act of 1998. This bill commemorates the life work of the man Life Magazine selected as the single most important individual of this millennium. An American citizen whose more than 1,300 inventions have shaped our daily life and will underpin the technology of the next 1,000 years. Mr. Speaker, I have the issue of Life Magazine that so designated him.

This bill conforms in all respects to the coin reform legislation that we have passed in this Congress and the last.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), along with his colleagues, have persevered and obtained the necessary cosponsors.

This commemorative coin has already been approved by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee. It also meets other strictures of those reforms including mintage limits and retention of surcharge payments until all the government's costs are recovered from the program.

Mr. Speaker, the manager's amendment simply updates earlier legislative language that envisioned a 1997 anniversary and now instead commemorates the 125th anniversary of the invention of the electric light bulb which will take place in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the immediate adoption of H.R. 678, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. VENTO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. The Committee on Banking and Financial Services is asked to authorize commemorative coins to support popular public causes. The sale of commemorative coins have helped finance the Olympics, repair Mount Rushmore and refurbish the Botanical Gardens.

In today's bill, we are asked to help preserve the historic legacy of Thomas Edison, one of our Nation's most brilliant and intriguing inventors. Born in Ohio, Edison was the youngest of seven children. Primarily schooled at home, Edison in his lifetime would eventually be credited with more than 1,300 inventions. The incandescent light bulb, the phonograph, and the motion picture camera are just a few of his well-known inventions, and often manufactured in firms founded and managed by the colorful and talented Edison.

Mr. Speaker, Thomas Edison's work has already been recognized by Congress through the award of a Congressional Gold Medal. The purpose of this

measure is to preserve the Edison legacy for generations of future Americans. Surcharges on the sale of the commemorative coins will be used to support museums and maintain historic sites in six different States. Each will highlight the spirit and genius of Thomas Edison.

Those who support this bill hope all Americans, young and old alike, will be inspired by the accomplishments of Thomas Edison and will continue the American fascination with the spirit of invention.

Mr. Speaker, I note that part of the dollars here go to the Park Service for help with the archives and other type of work, the indexing and preservation of many of the documents and papers that are important to our cultural history. I think that is especially noteworthy.

I note that many of the other sites are in need of funding and this permits us to provide an opportunity for those supportive of the Edison legacy to actually buy the coins, purchase them in some cases. Some of the dollars then would be voluntarily provided in this way, rather than going through direct tax dollars. Of course, some will be purchased by coin collectors. There will be half a million coins as I understand, the coins put out for this purpose. So I hope that the sale is vigorous and the dollars used in this attain the objectives of the sponsor.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) for his persistence in this, along with the other sponsors in Ohio and Michigan, the sites that host the work of this American genius, an American icon, Thomas Edison.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 678, the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act.

In every Congress, the Banking Committee is asked to authorize commemorative coins to support popular public causes. The sale of commemorative coins have helped finance the Olympics, repair Mount Rushmore and refurbish the Botanical Gardens.

In today's bill, we are asked to help preserve the historic legacy of Tom Edison, one of our nation's most brilliant and intriguing inventors. Born in Ohio in 1847, Edison was the youngest of seven children. Primarily schooled at home, Tom Edison in his lifetime would eventually be credited with more than 1300 inventions. The incandescent light bulb, the phonograph and the moving picture camera are just a few of his well know inventions, often manufactured in firms founded and managed by the colorful and talented Edison.

Tom Edison's work has already been recognized by the Congress through the award of a Congressional Gold Medal. The purpose of H.R. 678 is to preserve the Edison legacy for generations of future Americans. Surcharges on the sale of the commemorative coins will be used to support museums and maintain historical sites in six different states. Each will highlight the spirit and genius of Thomas Edison. Those who support this bill sincerely hope all Americans, young and old alike, will be inspired by the accomplishments of Thomas Edison and will continue the American fascination with the spirit of invention.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I intend to support H.R. 678 and I urge my colleague to join with me to honor the life and work of Thomas Edison.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR).

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, when I introduced this bill on February 11, 1997, that was Thomas Edison's 150th birthday, and I had no idea what a monumental task getting a coin bill to the floor is.

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Obtaining 290 cosponsors is no small task. I particularly want to thank some of those original cosponsors, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), and others for their exceptional efforts in making this bill possible.

The coin to be issued is to honor the world's greatest inventor, Thomas Edison. The effort it took to get it minted reminds me of one of his most famous sayings, "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 perspiration."

To reawaken America to the history of this national hero, this bill commemorates the 125th anniversary of the light bulb. The Treasury is authorized to issue a \$1 commemorative coin in 2004 bearing Edison's likeness. The surcharges from the sale of the coins will be used to help fund eight different Edison locations across the country dedicated to preserving Edison's legacy. The bill has no net cost to the Federal Government.

Edison was born in my district, and, last year, the Edison Birthplace Museum in Milan, Ohio, was so strapped for funds that it had to ask local officials for help with the electric bill. Other Edison sites across the country are faced with similar financial difficulties.

Edison was the most prolific inventor in American history with more than 1,300 patents. In addition to the light bulb, those inventions include the stock ticker, the electronic vote recorder, the phonograph, and many others.

This coin bill will be a suitable memorial to Thomas Edison and will provide needed help to many historical sites across America, and I urge its passage.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO), for his kindness in yielding to me at this particular time.

I strongly support this legislation which I am the original author. As pointed out, Thomas Edison invented more than 1,300 wondrous devices. It changed the way we not only viewed the world, but how we lived. He truly represents an extraordinary creative spirit of the kind which made this Nation great. It is not only fitting that we honor him, but we do so here with a commemorative coin.

The revenue from the sales of this coin will be used to continue his legacy by funding a number of important programs such as the Edison Institute at Greenfield Village.

I want to express my thanks to my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO); also the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), the minority whip, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), and the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) for their fine work in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this legislation.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield whatever time he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Delaware for yielding to me, and I will not take much time.

I certainly thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) for bringing this very important piece of legislation to the floor. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) was good enough to include as one of the eight sites across the country dedicated to preserving the legacy of Thomas Edison the Hall of Electrical History in Schenectady, New York.

The Schenectady Hall of Electrical History, established in 1979 by the GE Elfun Society, is charged with the task of salvaging and preserving and sharing the wealth of historic information associated with the Edison era and the early years of this country's electrical age.

This museum in upstate New York provides public access, especially to young students, to artifacts, displays, and other educational exhibits directly connected to the discoveries and inventions of Edison. Their collection includes some 30,000 artifacts of which some 45 to 50 are Edison artifacts.

I commend the gentleman from Ohio for bringing this legislation to the floor. I might also say we want to expedite it over in the other body. I will be contacting Senator D'AMATO to see if we cannot go through a procedure of holding it at the desk so it does not have to go through a committee over there.

Let us pass it. I salute the gentleman.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my

friend and colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the Democratic whip.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me, and I thank my friend, the gentleman from Minnesota, for his support, and I thank the Speaker for his leadership on this.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) has been most helpful, as has been the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), and others, and my dear friend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

Most of us have heard Thomas Edison's old adage, "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration," but we sometimes forget that those words are more than just a clever quip. At their core, they really capture the American entrepreneurial spirit: the freedom to pursue your own ideas, to satisfy your curiosity, to create something of value, to work as hard as you can to turn your dreams into reality.

Today we have the opportunity to recognize this spirit through a special silver dollar commemorating Thomas Edison and the 125th anniversary of the invention of the light bulb.

Thomas Edison did not just invent the light bulb, the phonograph, the motion picture. Yes, all of these inventions are important. In their modern form, they still affect our lives today, long after his death.

But more than that, more than being an inventor, Thomas Edison is an inspiration, an inspiration to every person who has ever had a good idea and showed the determination to make it a reality, no matter how many tries that it takes.

It took Edison hundreds of tries to get the light bulb to work, literally hundreds. The problem was finding the right filament. He tried platinum. He even tried horsehair. He tried rare fibers from the South American jungles. Do you know what the solution turned out to be? A special type of burnt cardboard. Who would have guessed?

Edison's spirit of ingenuity, of creativity, of sheer determination is what we recognize with the minting of this coin.

Seventy years ago, this House honored Edison with the Congressional Gold Medal. Today, through the Thomas Alva Edison Commemorative Coin Act, we can honor his great invention and lasting legacy.

I have a special, personal interest in honoring Edison because he grew up in my district, in Port Huron, Michigan. He got his start there. He was raised there from the age of, I believe, 6 to 16. He sold newspapers and candy on a train between Port Huron and Detroit, conducting experiments in baggage cars between the different stations that they pulled into.

Port Huron is proud of its most famous citizen, as are other communities where he later lived and worked.

I would like to take a moment to thank the people at the Port Huron

Museum of Arts and History, who have been very active in Edison scholarship and in exploring and preserving his legacy.

Let me also add that minting this commemorative silver dollar will not cost taxpayers one dime, and that the revenue generated from the sales will help fund eight important Edison-related historic sites around the country, including Ohio, Texas, New Jersey, New York, and Michigan.

These sites include both museums and laboratories, just the type of educational venues in which to inspire children to become inventors and entrepreneurs themselves.

So please join me and my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), in this endeavor to honor the world's greatest inventor, Thomas Alva Edison. This project would not have been possible without the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), and I am grateful for all that he has done to make it happen.

Please join us in supporting this project. Through this commemorative coin, we celebrate Edison's contributions to the world and promote the ideals he embodied, creativity, hard work, determination, and an abiding faith in our ability to create a better future.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the sponsor of this measure and my friend and colleague.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to have within my Congressional District one of the most important national historical sites in the Nation, the complex of laboratories in West Orange, New Jersey, where Thomas Edison produced the inventions that changed the world: the light bulb, the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and the alkaline battery, among others. In fact, he obtained over 1,000 patents in his lifetime. The prolific American genius left behind 400,000 artifacts and more than 5 million pages of notes, drawings, letters, and memos.

Let me note that another prominent African-American inventor, Lewis Latimer, contributed to the development of electric lighting and was a member of the Edison Pioneers who supported Thomas Edison's work. Also, in a photo, a rare photo, there is a picture of about 30 visitors to the Edison grounds, one of them being Frederick Douglass, an outstanding African-American in the history of this country. So the Edison movement had many people involved.

Unfortunately, about 5 years ago, the magnificent Thomas Edison National Historic Site was added to the list of "America's Most Endangered Historic Places." A lack of funding had led to serious deterioration in the physical condition of the site, threatening the

priceless treasures of history that are stored at the very place where Thomas Edison worked on his monumental inventions.

I am grateful that the following year my colleagues in Congress approved my request for over \$1 million to help repair and preserve the Edison labs in West Orange. But estimates to complete the rest of the work are up to as much as \$60 million.

Earlier this summer, the First Lady, Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, visited the site and announced a contribution by GE Corporation to help with the restoration. But it is essential that we find other avenues for raising funds to save this remarkable piece of history.

The bill we are considering today will authorize the minting of 500,000 \$1 commemorative coins to mark the 125th anniversary of the invention of the light bulb.

The proceeds from the coin sales will be distributed equally to the eight sites around the country involved in the preservation of THOMAS Edison's legacy.

Let me commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), for his tireless work on this legislation. It has been a pleasure working with him, as well as with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), on this project which is so important to all of us who have Edison sites in our districts and who have the responsibility of preserving these sites for future generations.

I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation so that we may preserve the legacy of a man who forever changed our Nation and the world.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage support for this. We are going to ask for the yeas and nays on this particular piece of legislation. We have had a number of speakers. I would point out that eight different sites that somehow Thomas Edison touched on will share in the proceeds of this.

I will also say that sometimes we do these coin bills, where there are 290 sponsors, and I am worried they will not do particularly well, and the institutions that may benefit from it will not necessarily benefit as much as they might have perceived that they would. But I am convinced that this one will.

Again, we thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) for his perseverance. As he has already indicated, it is not easy to get 290 cosponsors for anything in this body. I think Thomas Edison has been able to bring people together today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Thomas Alva Edison Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin Act. Although it was last year that marked the sesquicentennial of Edison's birth, it is never too late to commemorate the vast creativity, scientific discovery, and technological achievement of this great American inventor and industrialist.

Edison has impacted all of our lives with the invention of the photograph and over a thousand other patented devices, not to mention the prototype for the modern industrial research laboratory. As Members of Congress, Edison's very first patented invention may have been the most influential. Many of you may not know that the first patent that Edison ever received was for an electric vote recorder, which he invented in 1869 at the ripe old age of 22.

I am proud to represent the town of Edison, New Jersey, home of Edison's Menlo Park lab where Edison spent the peak of his creative life—including the invention of the phonograph in 1877. The Edison Tower now commemorates the site of the Menlo Park lab, where Edison created some of the most revolutionary inventions in history. The tower also stands as a key symbol of local pride for the community and the people of Edison Township.

Unfortunately, the Edison Tower has been forced to close due to structural deterioration. With the passage of the Thomas Alva Edison Sesquicentennial Commemorative Coin Act, the Edison Tower and six other Edison-related historic sites across the country would benefit from much needed funding. Proceeds from the sale of an Edison commemorative coin would be used in combination with state and local contributions to restore the Edison Tower and ensure that the adjacent Tower Museum remains open to the public.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman GILLMOR, for his leadership on this issue and for introducing this important legislation. And I urge all of my colleagues to vote to commemorate the unrivaled accomplishments of a great inventor and a great American, Thomas Alva Edison.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to commend Chairman CASTLE and Representative GILLMOR for their leadership—we simply would not be here today without them.

As we all know, Thomas Edison's inventions have revolutionized our every day lives. Today we have the opportunity to recognize one of the most important of these inventions, the light bulb, with a commemorative coin.

The 500,000 coins that would be minted under this legislation would bear Edison's likeness and could be used as legal tender, serving to remind all American citizens of the valuable contributions that Edison made to modern society.

Further, the proceeds from the sale of these coins would provide much needed financial support to a number of historical institutions that preserve the history of Thomas Edison.

My home district of southwest Florida is the site of the Thomas Edison winter home and museum. This remarkable exhibit includes tropical gardens and thousands of fascinating items from his long and illustrious career. However, this national treasure is in dire need of some long overdue repairs. The proceeds from this coin could help defray the costs of restoring the Edison home and other important Edison landmarks throughout our nation.

This bill is an opportunity to help preserve a valuable piece of American history at no cost to the American taxpayers. I urge its adoption.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 678, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 678.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1560) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1560

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 "Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The expedition commanded by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which came to be called "The Corps of Discovery", was one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all American history.

(2) President Thomas Jefferson gave Lewis and Clark the mission to "explore the Missouri River & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river may offer the most direct and practical water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce".

(3) The Expedition, in response to President Jefferson's directive, greatly advanced our geographical knowledge of the continent and prepared the way for the extension of the American fur trade with American Indian tribes throughout the land.

(4) President Jefferson directed the explorers to take note of and carefully record the natural resources of the newly acquired territory known as Louisiana, as well as diligently report on the native inhabitants of the land.

(5) The Expedition departed St. Louis, Missouri, on May 14, 1804.

(6) The Expedition held its first meeting with American Indians at Council Bluff near present-day Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, in August 1804, spent its first winter at Fort Mandan, North Dakota, crossed the Rocky Mountains by the mouth of the Columbia River in mid-November of that year, and wintered at Fort Clatsop, near the present-day city of Astoria, Oregon.

(7) The Expedition returned to St. Louis, Missouri, on September 23, 1806, after a 28-month journey covering 8,000 miles during which it traversed 11 future States: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

(8) Accounts from the journals of Lewis and Clark and the detailed maps that were prepared by the Expedition enhance knowledge of the western continent and routes for commerce.

(9) The Expedition significantly enhanced amicable relationships between the United States and the autonomous American Indian nations, and the friendship and respect fostered between American Indian tribes and the Expedition represents the best of diplomacy and relationships between divergent nations and cultures.

(10) The Lewis and Clark Expedition has been called the most perfect expedition of its kind in the history of the world and paved the way for the United States to become a great world power.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue—

(1) not more than 200,000 \$1 coins, each of which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper; and

(2) not more than 200,000 half dollar coins, each of which shall—

(A) weigh 12.50 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

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

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

SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.

The Secretary shall obtain silver for minting coins under this title only from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act.

SEC. 5. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this title shall be emblematic of the expedition of Lewis and Clark.

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

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

(B) an inscription of the years "1804-1806"; and

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

(3) OBVERSE OF COIN.—The obverse of each coin minted under this title shall bear the likeness of Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

(4) GENERAL DESIGN.—In designing this coin, the Secretary shall also consider incorporating appropriate elements from the Jefferson Peace and Friendship Medal which Lewis and Clark presented to the Chiefs of the various Indian tribes they encountered and shall consider recognizing Native American culture.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this title shall be selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and shall be reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this title 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 title.

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this title beginning on January 1, 2003.

(d) TERMINATION OF MINTING AUTHORITY.—No coins may be minted under this title after December 31, 2003.

SEC. 7. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this title 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 subsection (d) 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 title at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

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

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) SURCHARGES.—All sales of coins minted under this title shall include a surcharge of—

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

(2) \$7 per coin for the half dollar coin.

SEC. 8. GENERAL WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), no provision of law governing procurement or public contracts shall be applicable to the procurement of goods and services necessary for carrying out this title.

(b) EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.—Subsection (a) shall not relieve any person entering into a contract under the authority of this title from complying with any law relating to equal employment opportunity.

SEC. 9. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, the proceeds from the surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this title shall be promptly paid by the Secretary as follows:

(1) NATIONAL LEWIS AND CLARK BICENTENNIAL COUNCIL.— $\frac{2}{3}$ to the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, for activities associated with commemorating the bicentennial of the Expedition.

(2) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.— $\frac{1}{3}$ to the National Park Service for activities associated with commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

(b) AUDITS.—Each organization that receives any payment from the Secretary under this section shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 10. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

(a) NO NET COST TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that minting and issuing coins under this title will not result in any net cost to the United States Government.

(b) PAYMENT FOR COINS.—A coin shall not be issued under this title unless the Secretary has received—

(1) full payment for the coin;

(2) security satisfactory to the Secretary to indemnify the United States for full payment; or

(3) a guarantee of full payment satisfactory to the Secretary from a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the