

# LITTLETON'S COLLECTORS GUIDE TO MODERN COMMEMORATIVES



## *Collectors Guide from Littleton Coin Company*

With the release of the George Washington commemorative half dollar in 1982, a new era in U.S. coinage began. This 90% silver coin celebrated the 250th anniversary of his birth and marked the first new commemorative since 1954.



Washington leading the troops during the Battle of Princeton



David M. Sundman  
LCC Chairman

Dear Collector,

Modern U.S. Commemoratives are pure Americana. That's because these special coins are created to honor our country's historic events, famous people, important buildings, anniversaries and more. While each coin is legal tender, every design is different and has its own story to tell. Hold one in your hand, and you're holding a coin rich in historical significance.

### **From 1982 to date... modern commemoratives reflect the fabric of American life**

Whether it's the very first modern commemorative – the 1982 George Washington half dollar, or the 2017 Boys Town dollar, each beautiful clad, silver or gold coin displays images representing the special occasion it honors. Their designs recall bicentennials, baseball legends and events that make up the very fabric of our American life.

### **Have a plan for your collection**

Littleton makes collecting commemoratives fun and easy, but it's always good to have a plan. There are many ways to build a set of modern commemoratives. Some choose to collect the silver and clad halves or dollar issues in chronological order, while others, with a larger budget, choose the gold coins. And still others collect by topic: the Olympics, buildings, ships, history and many other themes. In addition, many round out their sets with news clippings, folders and different materials associated with the event that inspired the coin. As you can see, it's rewarding and fun to build a modern U.S. commemorative collection. That's because there are no strict rules; the grades, compositions, designs and dates are based on your choices and are as individual as you.

Most collectors are drawn to the hobby of coin collecting because it offers history, art, challenge of completion and fellowship. Whatever your interest or experience, I hope you'll find our modern U.S. commemorative coin collectors guide to be fun, useful and educational.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Sundman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

David M. Sundman  
Chairman

# Introduction to Modern Commemorative Coins



The George Washington half dollar launched the modern commemorative era



America's first commemorative was the World's Columbian Exposition silver half dollar



## Did you know?

The Statehood, D.C. & U.S. Territories and National Park quarters are circulating commemoratives. These coins brought millions of new collectors to the hobby and created interest in modern commemoratives.

In 1982, after an absence of 28 years, the U.S. Mint once again began to strike commemoratives. Its first official coin was the 90% silver Washington half dollar, honoring the 250th anniversary of his birth. This special issue began the modern U.S. commemorative era. Since 1986, at least one issue per year has been released.

## A tradition started in ancient times lives on

America's modern commemoratives follow a custom that began in ancient times. Back then, coins honored famous battles, leaders, cities, events and more. And our very first federally issued U.S. commemorative of 1892 followed that tradition. It was a silver half dollar celebrating the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

Today commemoratives are struck in gold, silver and, more recently, clad. Authorized by Congress, they are minted in small numbers for a limited time. Although these official U.S. Mint issues are legal tender, they aren't struck for circulation and shouldn't be confused with so-called "commemoratives" produced by private organizations; those are medals, not coins.

## The past lives again

Commemoratives capture historical events and remind us of our heritage. Inside this collectors guide, you'll find information about the modern U.S. commemorative series. It is arranged chronologically with half dollars and silver dollars first, followed by the gold coins. Beyond a few basics, commemoratives offer you an almost limitless variety of ways to form your collection and will bring you a lifetime of enjoyment!

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**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Denver & San Francisco

## 1982 George Washington 250th Anniversary of Birth Half Dollar

As the first U.S. commemorative since 1954, this half dollar honored the 250th anniversary of Washington's birth. It launched the modern commemorative era, and also marked the first time since 1964 that a U.S. coin was struck in 90% silver. Chief Engraver Elizabeth Jones based her obverse (front) design on American artist Rembrandt Peale's circa 1820s painting of Washington on horseback.

## 1983 Los Angeles Olympiad Silver Dollar

Interestingly, this 1983 Olympic coin was the first commemorative silver dollar since 1900. Issued to help support American athletes and honor the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympic games, it features a discus thrower outlined in three layers, giving the image movement.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco

## 1984 Los Angeles Olympiad Silver Dollar

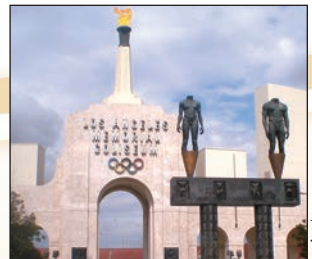
Sculptor Robert Graham created the bronze statues in front of the Los Angeles Coliseum for the 1984 Olympics. Based on the nude forms of a male water polo player and female long jumper, the statues celebrated the ideal body, but were headless and footless. When a similar design was used on this coin, it became one of the most controversial commemoratives ever.

*Titled Washington Before Yorktown, artist Rembrandt Peale created this painting about 1823.*



*Discus was an Olympic sport in ancient Greece. Athletes were judged on their rhythm & precision.*

*In 1984, the L.A. Coliseum became the first stadium ever to be used for opening ceremonies.*





**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver  
& San Francisco

## 1986 Statue of Liberty Centennial Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Both coins feature a version of the Statue of Liberty. In 1886, when the Statue of Liberty was unveiled, it was the largest free-standing statue in the world. At its century mark in 1986, the Statue of Liberty needed repairs, and sales of these coins helped restore it. The half dollar was the first clad U.S. commemorative ever issued.

## 1987 U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Silver Dollar

Struck on July 1, 1987, this silver dollar celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Constitution. Displayed prominently on the obverse is a quill pen, sheaf of parchment and the words *WE THE PEOPLE*, recalling the original document, handwritten on 4 sheets of paper. The reverse shows a group of people, representing our nation's ethnic diversity, from various periods in history.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia &  
San Francisco



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Denver &  
San Francisco

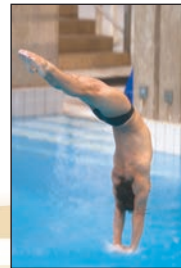
## 1988 Seoul Olympiad Silver Dollar

Struck to honor the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, this silver dollar shows Lady Liberty's torch lighting the Olympic torch of free competition. These would be the last games that the Soviet Union and East Germany participated in – both ceased to exist by the next Olympics.

*The U.S. Constitution has 4,440 words and is one of the world's oldest constitutions.*



*Called Liberty Enlightening the World by its creator, the French sculptor Bartholdi, the statue is known as the Statue of Liberty to most Americans.*



*During the Seoul Olympics, U.S. diver Greg Louganis hit his head on the diving board, but went on to win gold.*

## 1989 Congress Bicentennial Half Dollar & Silver Dollar



Both coins feature the Statue of Freedom, which graces the top of the U.S. Capitol dome. Issued to mark the 200th anniversary of the first Congressional legislative meeting, the sales helped preserve the Capitol building and pay down national debt. Freedom wears a helmet decorated with stars and topped with an eagle's head and crest of feathers.

**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Denver & San Francisco

## 1990 Eisenhower Centennial Silver Dollar

This is the only U.S. coin to feature 2 portraits of the same person on the same side. Authorized by President Reagan in 1988, this silver dollar honors the 100th anniversary of General Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower's birth. The profile of an older "Ike" is superimposed over his youthful image as Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe during WWII.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point



## 1991 Mount Rushmore Golden Anniversary Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

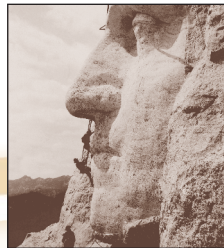
The Mount Rushmore Memorial opened in 1941, after more than 14 years of work. These coins marked the 50th anniversary, and their sales helped preserve the site. Located in South Dakota's Black Hills, the granite sculpture shows the faces of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln & Teddy Roosevelt, representing 150 years of U.S. history.

**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco



The Capitol dome's statue faces East, symbolizing that the sun never sets on freedom.

Eisenhower was a 5-star general whose military career spanned more than 4 decades.



Each face, from the chin to the top of the head, spans 60 ft. and is as tall as the Great Sphinx of Egypt.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & Denver

## 1991 Korean War Memorial Silver Dollar

Struck to honor Korean War veterans, this silver dollar marks the 38th anniversary of the war's end. Its sales helped fund the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. Along with a soldier and naval ships, the obverse also shows the F-86 Sabre jet, renowned for its air superiority against the Soviet MiGs during the war.

## 1991 United Service Organizations Silver Dollar

This silver dollar debuted during the Desert Storm Victory parade in June 1991. The U.S.O. float featured a performance members of the military might enjoy overseas and carried a 10-foot replica of the coin. The U.S.O. supports the military and their families, offering them a "home away from home."



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Denver & San Francisco



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco

## 1992 XXV Olympiad Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Issued to celebrate the 25th Summer & Winter Olympics and help fund U.S. athletes' training, the half dollar shows a gymnast in motion, and the silver dollar features a pitcher winding up. Plus, the Denver dollars, with XXV OLYMPIAD, are the first coins with edge lettering since 1933.

*19 statues representing soldiers on patrol are part of the Korean War Memorial.*



*In 1941, the U.S.O. was created in response to Franklin D. Roosevelt's challenge to boost the morale of members of the armed forces.*

*Many believe the pitcher on the 1992 Olympic silver dollar is Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan.*





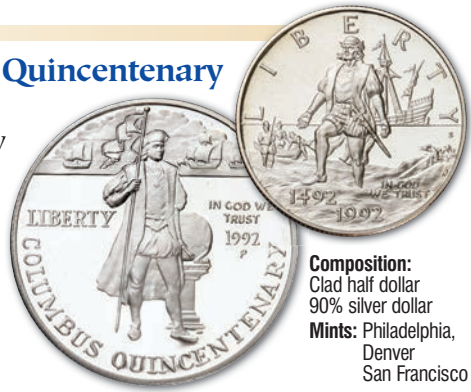
**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Denver & West Point

## 1992 White House 200th Anniversary Silver Dollar

In 1792, the White House's cornerstone was laid, and this coin celebrated that iconic building's 200th anniversary. Designed by architect James Hoban, the White House has served as the U.S. president's residence since 1800. George Washington oversaw its construction, but was not the first to live in it – that honor went to John Adams, our second president.

## 1992 Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

These coins mark the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus. They recall the age before computers when compass and astrolabe guided the wooden ships – *Nina*, *Pinta* & *Santa Maria*. Although Columbus is somewhat controversial, his discoveries changed the course of history.



**Composition:**  
 Clad half dollar  
 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia,  
 Denver  
 San Francisco



**Composition:** 90% silver half dollar  
 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** West Point, Denver  
 & San Francisco

## 1993 Bill of Rights Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Many delegates to the Constitutional Convention demanded a document that protected the individual's and the state's basic rights before they would ratify the constitution. So, George Washington urged the first United States Congress to adopt amendments protecting individual rights and, by December 1791, the first 10 amendments became the Bill of Rights. These coins honor this historic document.

*The north portico of the White House, the president's front door, is shown on the obverse. As you can see from architect James Hoban's circa 1792 drawing, it hasn't changed much in over two centuries.*



*Columbus bids the Queen of Spain farewell before setting sail, in this 1890's print.*

*James Madison, the father of the Bill of Rights, is featured on both 1993 coins.*





## 1991-1995 50th Anniversary of WWII Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Struck in 1993, these coins honored the U.S. involvement in WWII and helped finance the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Authorized in 1993, construction began on the memorial in 2001, and it opened in April 2004. The half dollar obverse shows the B-17 Flying Fortress above "V" for victory and members of the armed forces, while the dollar depicts a D-Day landing at Normandy.



**Composition:**  
Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia,  
Denver, & West Point

## 1993 (1994) Thomas Jefferson Silver Dollar

The 250th anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth in 1993 prompted the authorization of this silver dollar, but it was not struck until 1994. Jefferson was only 33 when he wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence. His portrait, on the obverse, is based on an 1805 painting by Gilbert Stuart. The reverse shows his 43-room home, Monticello (meaning "Little Mountain" in Italian).



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & San Francisco

## 1994 World Cup Tournament Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

In 1994, the United States hosted the 15th FIFA World Cup Soccer Tournament. This marked the first time in history the event had been held outside Europe or South America. With 24 different teams participating, the event had the highest attendance in World Cup history. These coins commemorate that tournament.



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, & San Francisco

*Construction began on Monticello in 1769. Later, Jefferson remodeled and enlarged it.*



*The World Cup for soccer is one of the most sought-after trophies in the world.*



*The WWII Memorial honors the more than 16 million veterans who served in this conflict.*



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point

## 1994 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Silver Dollar

Known as “The Wall,” the Vietnam Veterans Memorial recognizes more than 58,000 men and women who died during that war or are still missing. The Wall is made out of two sections of highly polished black granite, each over 240 feet long, and rises 10.1 feet at its tallest point. A portion is shown on this coin with the Washington Monument in the background.

## 1994 U.S. Prisoner of War Museum Silver Dollar

Issued to help fund the National Prisoner of War Museum, which pays tribute to the hardships and sacrifices of all U.S. prisoners of war, this silver dollar was designed by Tom Nielson, a former POW. The museum located in Andersonville, GA, was once the site of a Civil War POW camp and is part of Andersonville National Historic Site.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point

## 1994 Women in Military Service Memorial Silver Dollar

The first major memorial in the nation’s history to honor women in the military was funded in part by sales of this commemorative. Located at the Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, the memorial pays tribute to all servicewomen, from the Revolutionary War to the present. It opened in 1997.



*Names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are arranged chronologically by date of casualty.*

*Andersonville Prison Camp was once the Confederates' largest POW camp during the Civil War.*



*The Hemicycle, which is part of the Women in Military Service Memorial, is shown on the reverse of the silver dollar.*



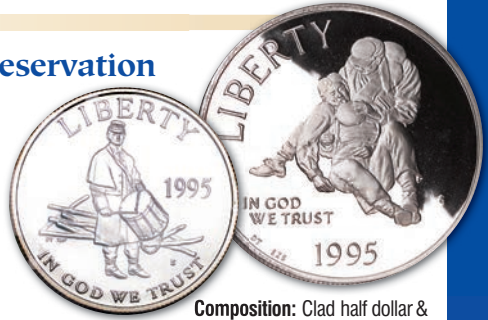
**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Denver & San Francisco

## 1994 U.S. Capitol Bicentennial Silver Dollar

Authorized in 1993, this coin celebrates the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Capitol. Construction began in 1793, but because of financial shortfalls, the Senate wing was not completed until 1800, and the U.S. Congress met there for the first time that November. Work began on the House wing in 1804 and the House of Representatives began using it in 1807.

## 1995 Civil War Battlefield Preservation Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

In 1895, Gettysburg National Military Park became the first battlefield to be preserved as a memorial. These coins commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first protection of Civil War battlefields, which according to President George H. Bush's 1992 statement, are under attack from urban development. Roughly 30 acres of battlefields are lost each year.



**Composition:** Clad half dollar & 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & San Francisco

## 1995 – 1996 XXVI Olympiad Half Dollars & Silver Dollars

These coins not only celebrated the 1996 Olympics held in Atlanta, GA, but also marked the 100th anniversary of the modern summer games held in 1896.



Basketball

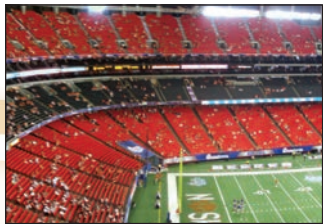


Baseball

## Olympiad Half Dollar

**Composition:** Clad  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point

*The Georgia Dome hosted team handball, gymnastics and basketball during the 1996 Summer Olympics.*



*Eagle and Shield, a gilded wood sculpture in the Old Senate Chamber of the Capitol - dates from around 1834.*



*Although many Civil War drummers were too young to fight, they kept order in the field and saw action.*



Swimming



Soccer

## Olympiad Half Dollars

Continued from page 11

**Composition:** Clad  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point

## Olympiad Silver Dollars

**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & West Point



Gymnastics



Paralympics



Track & Field



Cycling



Tennis



Paralympics

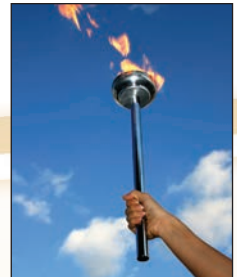


Rowing



High Jump

*The Olympic flame is a tradition coming from the ancient Greek Olympics, over 2,700 years ago.*





**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia  
 & West Point

## 1995 Special Olympics World Games Silver Dollar

Issued to honor the Special Olympics, this silver dollar broke with coinage tradition and became the first U.S. coin to portray a living woman. In 1968, Eunice Kennedy Shriver co-founded the Special Olympics, which grew out of her work with people with special needs. About 1,000 athletes participated in those very first games held in Chicago.

## 1996 National Community Service Silver Dollar

Each year, millions of Americans volunteer in soup kitchens, shelters, schools and fire departments, and this silver dollar honors their efforts. Interestingly, the obverse, which features a standing Liberty, is based on an Augustus Saint-Gaudens' design used on a medal in 1905. The reverse displays the inscription: SERVICE FOR AMERICA.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** San Francisco



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & Denver

## 1996 Smithsonian Institution 150th Anniversary Silver Dollar

Struck to mark the 150th anniversary of the Smithsonian Institute, this is the first U.S. commemorative to benefit numismatics. Some of the funds supported the museum's National Numismatic Collection. The museum was established in 1846 from a legacy left by Englishman James Smithson, who had never even visited the United States.



*Eunice Shriver began the Special Olympics when she was in her mid-40s.*

*Littleton employees pause during cleanup sponsored by LCC's Community Service Program.*



*Called The Castle, this building was the original home of the Smithsonian Institution.*



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 1997 U.S. Botanic Garden Silver Dollar

Honoring the 165th anniversary of the nation's oldest continually operating botanic garden, this silver dollar features the front of the Botanic Garden building. George Washington proposed the idea in 1796. Legislation was passed in 1820, creating an area to preserve and grow plants important to the nation. Although the coin marks the anniversary in 1995, it was not issued until 1997.

## 1997 Jackie Robinson Silver Dollar

When Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947, he became the first African-American to play in the majors in the 20th century. This dollar celebrates the 50th anniversary of the event. Its front shows Robinson stealing home, and on the back is the Jackie Robinson Foundation logo. The foundation provides disadvantaged students with scholarships and skills for higher education.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** San Francisco



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 1997 National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Silver Dollar

Dedicated in 1991, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial honors law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of others. More than 18,600 names of those killed in the line of duty are carved on the memorial's wall. This low-mintage coin marks the memorial's 6th anniversary and shows two officers making a rubbing of a fallen comrade's name.



The Lord & Burnham greenhouse (conservatory), part of the Botanical Gardens, has 14 different exhibits.

*The same year this 1951 comic book was released, Jackie Robinson ended the season with a .335 batting average and 25 stolen bases.*



The memorial's two curving, 304-foot-long blue-gray marble walls carry the names of all fallen officers dating back to 1792, the first known death.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** San Francisco

## 1998 Robert F. Kennedy Silver Dollar

This silver dollar honors Robert F. Kennedy's life work and legacy. During his presidential campaign, on the eve of his California primary victory in 1968, Kennedy was assassinated. As younger brother to JFK, "Bobby" Kennedy served as U.S. Attorney General and in the Senate. Seals of both offices are shown on the coin's reverse.

## 1998 Black Revolutionary War Patriots Silver Dollar

Crispus Attucks, an African-American, became the first patriot killed in the Boston Massacre of 1770. Today, he is one of the few victims whose name is widely remembered. This coin not only marks the 275th anniversary of his birth, but also honors other black Revolutionary War patriots, and mint sales fund a proposed memorial to commemorate these heroes.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** San Francisco



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 1999 Dolley Madison Silver Dollar

Not only is this first U.S. coin designed by Tiffany & Co., but also the first honoring a First Lady – Dolley Madison. During the War of 1812, she courageously refused to leave the White House until Gilbert Stuart's famous painting of George Washington was safe from destruction! Considered one of the most beautiful modern commemoratives, it marks the 150th anniversary of her death.

*Dolley Madison was famous for her skill as a White House hostess.*

*Robert "Bobby" Kennedy speaks to the crowd during a 1963 demonstration.*



*Printed by Paul Revere, this engraving is called The Bloody Massacre perpetrated on King Street, Boston on March 5th 1770...*





## 1999 Yellowstone National Park Silver Dollar

Yellowstone National Park, established in 1872, holds the honor of being America's first national park. In 1997 the park celebrated its 125th anniversary, and this coin honors that event. It was the last commemorative dollar of the 20th century. Geysers are relatively rare and Yellowstone is home to about half that exist worldwide.

**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & San Francisco

## 2000 Library of Congress Bicentennial Silver Dollar

Established in 1800, the Library of Congress celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2000, and this coin marked that occasion. Not only is the library the nation's oldest federal cultural institution, but it is also the world's largest library. With over 140 million items and about 650 miles of bookshelves, it provides the U.S. Congress and the American people with unsurpassed research materials.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

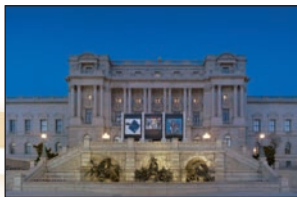


## 2000 Leif Ericson Millennium Silver Dollar

About A.D. 1,000, the Norseman Leif Ericson and his crew sailed west and eventually landed on the shores of present-day Newfoundland, Canada, which they named Vinland. The Vikings became the first Europeans to set foot in North America, and many believe they may have traveled as far west as Minnesota. This silver dollar marks the 1,000th anniversary of that voyage.

**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

*Many think Old Faithful (shown below) is on the coin's obverse, but it isn't, the terrain is different.*



*Built between 1888-97, the Library of Congress' Thomas Jefferson Building was inspired by the Paris Opera House in France.*

*Located in Iceland's capital, this statue of Leif Ericson was a gift from the U.S.*







**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & Denver

## 2001 American Buffalo Silver Dollar

Using a modified version of James Earle Fraser's very popular Buffalo nickel design, the U.S. Mint issued this silver dollar to help fund the National Museum of the American Indian. The mint began taking orders for the coin in May of 2001 and by June 21st, it had sold out. Construction started in 1999 and the museum opened in 2004.

## 2001 U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

The obverse of both commemoratives show the north wing of the original Capitol, which the British burned in 1814, and today's building. Each year the U.S. Capitol draws millions of visitors. They receive a timed-entry pass and tour. Now instead of waiting outside, the Visitor Center provides information, food and a place for people to wait inside.



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

*Silver dollar image (above) used with permission from A Guide Book of United States Coins (the "Red Book"), © Whitman Publishing, LLC. All Rights Reserved.*



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & Denver

## 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games Silver Dollar

Struck to help support the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics, this silver dollar features the Crystal Emblem of the games. The emblem represents a stylized snow crystal and is a dramatic departure from previous Olympic coins that show athletes competing in various sports. The reverse shows the Salt Lake City skyline with the Rockies in the background.



*The museum's distinctive architecture captures the feeling of wind-sculptured rock and reflects the Native Americans' connection to the earth.*

*The southern entrance to the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, DC*



*Gold medal 1980 "Miracle" U.S. Hockey team ignites Olympic cauldron during Winter 2002 opening ceremonies.*

U.S. Navy photo by admiral151/Chris Prentiss/Korea



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2002 West Point Bicentennial Silver Dollar

Established on March 16, 1802 by Thomas Jefferson, this prestigious military academy has graduated many notable American leaders, like Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Struck to honor West Point's 200 years of "Duty, Honor, Country" (academy's motto), this silver dollar shows military cadets on parade with Washington Hall and the Cadet Chapel in back.

## 2003 First Flight Centennial Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright's airplane soared above the ground at Kitty Hawk, NC. In just 12 seconds, the brothers successfully made the first engine-powered flight controlled by man. With Orville Wright piloting, the plane traveled 120 feet. The silver dollar features both brothers, and the half dollar depicts the Wright Monument.



**Composition:** Clad half dollar & 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

*U.S. Mint images*



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2004 Thomas Alva Edison Silver Dollar

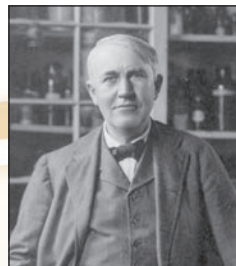
Issued in 2004 to honor the 125th anniversary of Edison's invention of the practical light bulb, this coin shows the inventor, while the reverse depicts his first light bulb of 1879. For over a century, our daily lives have been brightened by his invention. Nicknamed "The Wizard of Menlo Park," Edison patented over 1,000 inventions during his lifetime.

*West Point cadets are taught how to march and parade in an area known as the Plain.*



*Located in North Carolina, the Wright Memorial is 60 feet high and was dedicated in 1932.*

*Although Edison invented the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph of 1877 made him famous.*





**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2004 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Silver Dollar

When Thomas Jefferson signed the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, he doubled our nation's size. To chart this unknown territory and build relations with the native peoples, he sent Lewis & Clark on a voyage of discovery. They traveled safely through hostile lands, making their way to the Pacific and back. This coin pays tribute to the 200th anniversary of that daring expedition.

## 2005 Chief Justice John Marshall

Issued for the 250th anniversary of the birth of John Marshall, this silver dollar celebrates the longest serving Chief Justice in Supreme Court history. Marshall served from 1801-1835, writing and shaping America's constitutional law. He established the court's right to judicial review of all Acts of Congress. This dollar depicts John Marshall, and the reverse shows the Old Supreme Court Chamber.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2005 Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Silver Dollar

This coin marks the first time the U.S. Mint has honored a branch of the military with a commemorative. Honoring the 230th anniversary of the Marine Corps' beginning in 1775, the obverse captures the Marines' heroism and courage with an image of the raising of the American flag at Iwo Jima. The reverse bears the Marine emblem and the motto SEMPER FIDELIS – "Always Faithful."



*This statue in Seaside, OR marks the end of Lewis & Clark's 4,000 mile, 18-month journey west.*

*Chief Justice John Marshall served on the Supreme Court for over 34 years.*



*Photographer Joe Rosenthal took the photo of Marines raising the flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima in February 1945.*



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2006 Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Silver Dollars

### Scientist

Naturally curious with a brilliant mind, Franklin was one of our young nation's most important scientists, founding fathers and thinkers. Called "Scientist," this silver dollar marks the 300th anniversary of his birth. It shows Franklin conducting his famous kite and key experiment. The reverse shows his 1754 cartoon, which is believed to be America's first political cartoon.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

### Founding Father

As America's first diplomat, it's fitting this 300th anniversary coin is called "Founding Father." It reflects the familiar Franklin image, capturing the statesman in his later years. From 1776-78, he worked to gain French support for American independence. Later, he drew up trade and defense treaties with France. The reverse depicts the 1776 Continental Currency dollar with the mottoes he suggested.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** San Francisco

## 2006 San Francisco Old Mint Centennial Silver Dollar

Issued to honor the 100th anniversary of the "Granite Lady," San Francisco's Second Mint, this silver dollar pays tribute to the building's role in helping the city survive the earthquake and fire of 1906. The reverse shows George T. Morgan's beloved eagle design used on the Morgan dollar and thought to have been copied from a 1904-S coin.



America's first known political cartoon is Franklin's *Join, or Die.*, published in his *Pennsylvania Gazette* newspaper.

*Trumbull's painting of the five-man drafting committee presenting the Constitution to Congress in June 1776.*



In 1961, the "Granite Lady," the former U.S. Mint in San Francisco, became a National Historic Landmark.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

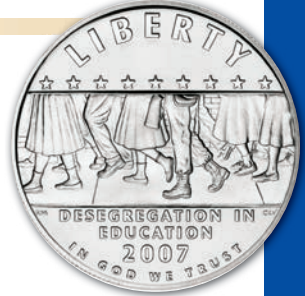
## 2007 Jamestown 400th Anniversary Silver Dollar

In May 1607, after 5 months at sea, the three ships *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed*, and *Discovery* landed on the banks of the James River, and established America's first permanent English settlement. This coin celebrates the 400th anniversary of that momentous event. It shows people of three different cultures that worked together to establish the colony of Jamestown.

## 2007 Little Rock Central High School Desegregation Silver Dollar

On September 23, 1957, nine high schoolers became the first African-American students to enter Little Rock High School. When violence broke out they left, but returned two days later escorted by federal troops. They became known as The Little Rock Nine. The coin marks the 50th anniversary of this desegregation event and pays tribute to their courage.

Silver dollar image (above) used with permission from A Guide Book of United States Coins (the "Red Book"), © Whitman Publishing, LLC. All Rights Reserved.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & San Francisco



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & San Francisco

## 2008 Bald Eagle Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Designated our national emblem in 1782, the American bald eagle stood at the brink of extinction over 35 years ago. Thanks to the 1973 Endangered Species Act it has made a come back, and was removed from the list in 2007. These handsome coins celebrate its recovery. The dollar features an eagle soaring, and the half dollar, eaglets nesting.



*This painting by Sidney King shows colonists building the palisade walls of the original fort at Jamestown in May 1607.*



National Park Service



*The 101st Airborne Division escort the Little Rock Nine into the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, AR, during the fall of 1957.*

*After bald eagle chicks hatch, the mother stays on the nest, while the father provides most of the food.*





**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar

This commemorative celebrates the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille's birth. Plus, it is the *first* American coin to feature readable braille. Sightless since 4, Braille was just 15 years old when he developed the system that uses raised dots to represent letters. Before his invention, learning tools for the blind were limited to hard-to-read books that were expensive to make.

## 2009 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Silver Dollar

Inspired by Daniel Chester French's sculpture in the Lincoln Memorial, this silver dollar celebrates the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 1809. It features a bold, full-faced depiction of "Honest Abe" and the reverse carries the final 43 words of his famous Gettysburg Address. Lincoln led America through the Civil War, abolished slavery and dedicated his life to securing human rights and uniting a nation.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2010 Veterans Disabled for Life Silver Dollar

Struck at West Point, located near the U.S. Military Academy, this silver dollar is the first ever to pay tribute to America's disabled veterans. Through the years, millions of men and women have answered duty's call, and the coin's design reflects the tenacity and courage of those who live with permanent disabilities. These coins helped fund the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

*The word Braille (abbreviated Brl in Braille code) is shown on the reverse, in the upper half of this coin.*



*Above is the only verified photo known to exist of Lincoln at Gettysburg.*

*Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth, who once served as the Assistant Secretary for Public & Intergovernmental Affairs for the VA, is an Iraq War veteran.*



*Photo by Russ Williams, Department of Defense*



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2010 Boy Scouts of America Centennial Silver Dollar

Since this organization's inception in 1910, over 111 million youth members and adult leaders have built and fostered character, citizenship, fitness and outdoor skills. It's the largest youth organization in the United States, with scouts and leaders volunteering over 35 million hours of service annually.

## 2011 Medal of Honor Silver Dollar

First bestowed in 1861 during the Civil War, the Medal of Honor is awarded by the president to those who go above and beyond the call of duty. This silver dollar was issued to honor the 150th anniversary of this medal. In 1963, Congress declared that only those who exhibit heroic action in combat are eligible to receive the Medal of Honor.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia & San Francisco



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco

## 2011 U.S. Army Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

The United States Army was founded in 1775 and, since then, over 30 million men and women have worked to protect and defend America. These coins honor the history and heritage of the Army from its founding to the present day. The half dollar's design celebrates "service in peace" while the dollar pays tribute to "modern service."



*Boy Scouts delivered posters to help the war effort in 1943.*



*Since its inception, over 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded.*

*WWI-era Army recruitment posters popularized the image of "Uncle Sam."*





**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2012 Infantry Soldier Silver Dollar

Since 1775, our nation's Infantry has borne the brunt of sacrifice for securing and protecting American freedoms. Though it's just one branch of the Army, Infantry members have received more than half of all Medals of Honor that have been awarded. Obverse depicts a modern infantry soldier leading the charge, while the reverse shows the crossed rifles insignia.

## 2012 Star-Spangled Banner Silver Dollar

During the shelling of Fort McHenry in 1814, Francis Scott Key was detained on a British ship. At dawn, he saw that a large American flag was still flying proudly over the fort – which inspired him to write the verse that became America's national anthem. Lady Liberty is shown on the obverse, waving the flag that inspired Key, while a modern flag is on the reverse.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, West Point



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2013 Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Centennial Silver Dollar

Honors the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts – an organization founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low. This beloved organization continues to encourage and inspire millions of girls each year. The group's iconic trefoil emblem is on the reverse, while three scouts are shown on the obverse.



*Infantry soldiers during WWII*

*The Star Spangled Banner was named as America's National Anthem in 1931.*



*The Girl Scouts instills millions of girls with courage, confidence and character.*



## 2013 Five-Star Generals Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

The U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth (CGSC) has educated some of America's top military minds since its founding in 1881. This commemorative series honors the five 5-star generals who either graduated from, or taught at, CGSC.

**Composition:**  
Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar

**Mints:** Philadelphia,  
Denver, San Francisco, West Point

## 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Located in Cooperstown, NY, America's National Baseball Hall of Fame is home to thousands of artifacts spanning the history of the game. To mark the Hall of Fame's 75th anniversary in 2014, the U.S. Mint struck its first-ever curved commemorative coins. The concave obverse features a classic baseball glove, while the convex reverse is designed to look like a ball.



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco



## 2014 Civil Rights Act of 1964 Silver Dollar

The groundbreaking Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended segregation in public places and said that employees could no longer be discriminated against on the basis of race, religion, gender or nationality. This coin honors the 50th anniversary of the Act and is symbolic of the civil rights movement.

**Composition:** 90% silver

**Mints:** Philadelphia

*Baseball has long been considered "America's pastime."*



*Named a 5-star general in 1944, Eisenhower went on to serve as the 34th U.S. President in 1953.*



*President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act.*

## 2015 U.S. Marshals Service 225th Anniversary Half Dollar & Silver Dollar



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar

**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver & San Francisco

America's oldest federal law enforcement agency – the U.S. Marshals Service – was created by George Washington in 1789. From the days of the Wild West through modern times, these coins honor the organization that “always gets their man!”

## 2015 March of Dimes 75th Anniversary Silver Dollar

With polio on the rise in 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (who struggled firsthand with the disease) created the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Now known as the March of Dimes, the foundation advocates and supports programs related to the health of pregnant mothers and babies.



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia,  
West Point



**Composition:** 90% silver  
**Mints:** Philadelphia

## 2016 Mark Twain Silver Dollar

Considered one of America's greatest authors, Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in Florida, Missouri in November of 1835. Adopting the pen name Mark Twain from his days as a river pilot, Clemens went on to publish 28 books. The reverse of this dollar celebrates some of his most beloved characters.

*Dodge City Peace Commission photo shows U.S. Marshals Wyatt Earp & Bat Masterson.*



*Dr. Jonas Salk announced his polio vaccine in 1953.*

*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is among Twain's best-known works.*





**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver &  
San Francisco



## 2016 National Park Service 100th Anniversary Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

For the past century, the National Park Service has served as a protector of America's national, historical and cultural sites. Thanks to the initial efforts of conservationists like Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir, millions of acres – along with monuments, battlefields, landmarks and more – are preserved for future generations.

## 2017 Lions Club International Century of Service Silver Dollar

Founded by Chicago businessman Melvin Jones in 1917, the members of Lions Clubs International are dedicated to humanitarian service. Today, the organization is supported by more than 1.3 million members in over 46,000 clubs around the globe. Lions are known for their charitable acts and work tirelessly to serve their communities and promote peace.



**Composition:** 90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia



**Composition:** Clad half dollar  
90% silver dollar  
**Mints:** Philadelphia &  
San Francisco



## 2017 Boys Town Centennial Half Dollar & Silver Dollar

Working under the belief that all children could be productive citizens, Father Edward Flanagan rented a boarding house in 1917. There, any boy was welcomed in and given the opportunity for love, education and a trade. Over the past century, this group (now known as “Boys Town”) has continued to help at-risk children and families across the U.S.

*Old Faithful was Yellowstone's first geyser to be named.*



*Father Flanagan's original vision for helping at-risk children lives on today.*



*Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world.*



Modern U.S. gold commemoratives offer collectors low mintages, unique designs and are limited-edition coins because they are not always issued every year. The most common denominations are \$5 gold pieces, but occasionally the mint has issued \$10 coins and, for one year only, it issued a bimetallic commemorative in gold and platinum. Over the years, the majority of modern gold commemoratives have been Proofs, but a few Uncirculated versions have been issued too.



America's 1st bimetallic commemorative struck for the Library of Congress Bicentennial in 2000 (see p. 29)



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco & West Point

## 1984 Los Angeles Olympiad Gold \$10

The torch relay began in May, at United Nations Plaza in New York. Bill Thorpe Jr., grandson of 1912 Olympian Jim Thorpe, ran the first leg. Over 3,600 runners took part, carrying the torch through 33 states, plus the District of Columbia on its way to the Los Angeles Coliseum. This coin was the first \$10 gold commemorative, the first of this denomination since 1933, and the first struck at 4 different mints.

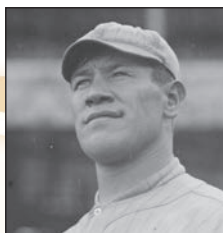
## 1986 Statue of Liberty Centennial Gold \$5

Not only is this gold coin the first \$5 commemorative, but it also won the coveted Coin of the Year award in 1986. The dramatic design features a majestic close-up of the statue's head and crown on the obverse. An eagle in flight, about to land, is on the reverse. The design made it an instant collector hit, with the entire mintage selling out.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

*The Marathon Tower in Amsterdam is the site where, in 1928, the first Olympic flame of the modern games was lit.*



Jim Thorpe won gold medals in the decathlon & pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics.



Vincent Stenning



*The Torch of the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of enlightenment, lighting the way to freedom.*



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1987 U.S. Constitution Bicentennial Gold \$5

America's constitution has served as a model for other countries around the world since its creation over 200 years ago. Interestingly, the word democracy isn't used in it. Quill pens, symbolic of what could have been used to sign the Constitution, and a modernistic eagle are prominently displayed on this coin.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1988 Seoul Olympiad Gold \$5

Considered by many one of our most beautiful modern coins, the \$5 gold piece's obverse features the head of Nike, ancient goddess of victory. Chief Engraver Elizabeth Jones created the design in honor of the 1988 Olympic games held in South Korea. During those games, Flo-Jo (Florence Griffith-Joyner) won gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100 relay and silver in the 4x400 relay.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

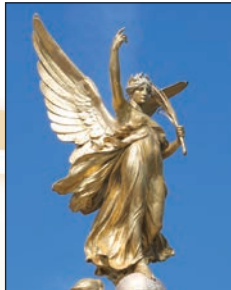
## 1989 Congress Bicentennial Gold \$5

1989 marked the 200th anniversary of the first Congressional meeting held in New York City in 1789 under the new constitution. Nowadays, Congress meets in the U.S. Capitol building, so it's fitting the dome is featured on this coin. Above the vice president's chair in the Old Senate Chamber is a carved gilded eagle and shield; this majestic carving is shown on the reverse.



*The National Archives holds 3 of our nation's most important documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.*

*In Greek mythology, winged Nike is the goddess of Victory.*



*New York City's Federal Hall, where the first U.S. Congress met in 1789.*



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1991 Mount Rushmore Golden Anniversary Gold \$5

The swooping eagle, with sculptors' tools in its talons, made one of the more dramatic commemorative designs of the era. Engraver John Mercanti seamlessly incorporated all of the required coin elements such as LIBERTY and the date. The reverse, created by Robert Lamb, marked the first time the design carried no emblems or images – letters alone made up the motif.

## 1992 XXV Olympiad Gold \$5

Celebrating both the 25th Olympic Summer games held in Spain and the Winter games held in France, this gold piece features a sprinter, with the U.S. flag in the background. The summer games saw the debut of professionals being allowed in basketball. America sent the "Dream Team," composed of such greats as Larry Bird, Michael Jordan and Karl "the Mailman" Malone, to name a few.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1992 Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Gold \$5

Celestial navigation was in its infancy, so Columbus primarily used dead reckoning on his voyage to the new world. We know this because he is believed to be the first sailor to keep a detailed log. Dead reckoning uses a magnetic compass to set the course, and calculates distance by time and speed, to chart the voyage. This coin honors that courageous ocean journey.

*Circa mid-1930's photograph of Gutzon Borglum's model of the Mt. Rushmore Memorial.*



*Sprinter Mike Marsh won 2 gold medals: in the world record-setting 400m relay and in the 200m, during the 1992 Summer Olympics.*



*Columbus captained the Santa Maria. The 3-masted ship ran aground on Christmas Day 1492 and never made a return voyage from the New World.*



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1993 Bill of Rights Gold \$5

Known as the father of the Bill of Rights, James Madison introduced his proposal in June 1789, during the first meeting of the Congress. It guaranteed our essential rights and liberties, and became the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. The coin features James Madison reading the Bill of Rights, and the reverse displays one of his quotes.

## 1991-1995 50th Anniversary of World War II Gold \$5

Struck to commemorate the 50th anniversary of WWII, this coin features a unique reverse design – the letter v and •••– Morse Code for that letter. The obverse depicts a soldier with his arms raised in victory. Both the Allies and Axis powers used Morse Code to encrypt messages, but the codes could be broken. America then began to use the Native American Code Talkers.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

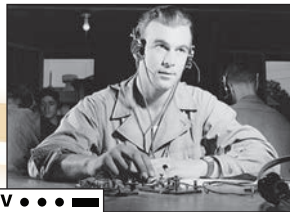
## 1994 World Cup Tournament Gold \$5

One of the most sought-after trophies in the world is that for winning soccer's World Cup. So, it is fitting that this trophy is shown on the \$5 gold coin's obverse. In the 1930s, French sculptor Abel LaFleur created the first trophy out of solid gold, but in 1983, it was stolen and apparently melted. The present-day trophy, made out of 18k gold, was created in 1974.

*Not only did James Madison help draft the Bill of Rights, but he also served as a commander in the Virginia Militia.*



Painting by Chris Jaster for the National Great President Series



**V ••• –**  
Short wave radio and morse code played a big part in combat during WWII.

*Currently in World Cup Soccer, 32 qualifying teams compete in a round-robin-type tournament for the trophy.*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1995 Civil War Battlefield Preservation Gold \$5

Struck to honor the 100th anniversary of the protection of Civil War battlefields (1895), this coin shows a bugler on horseback. Buglers were a crucial part of all military efforts, used until the age of electronics. During the Civil War, the familiar melody *Taps* was created by Union General Daniel Butterfield and later played at a military funeral for the first time.

## 1995 – 1996 XXVI Olympiad Gold \$5

To celebrate the 1996 Olympics held in Atlanta, GA, and mark the 100th anniversary of the modern summer games, the U.S Mint issued four gold commemoratives.

**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point



1995 Torch Bearer Runner



1995 Stadium



1996 Flag Bearer



1996 Cauldron



Civil War buglers signaled wake up & lights out, boosted morale and relayed battlefield commands.

*Downtown Atlanta, host city of the 1996 Summer Olympics, seen from Centennial Olympic Park.*



*Turner Field, once Olympic Stadium, was home to the Atlanta Braves from 1997-2016.*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1996 Smithsonian Institution 150th Anniversary Gold \$5

James Smithson, the British scientist whose fortune led to the creation of the Smithsonian Institution is on the obverse of this gold piece. The reverse shows the distinctive Smithsonian sunburst. Struck in gold, the \$5 coin recalls the 104,960 gold Sovereigns (Smithson's fortune), which were shipped to the U.S. and melted, to help fund the museum.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1997 Jackie Robinson Gold \$5

An older Jackie Robinson is shown on the coin. After retiring from baseball in 1956, he served as vice president of human resources at Chock Full O' Nuts until 1964. Robinson was an advocate of civil rights, a member of the NAACP and helped establish the Freedom National Bank, which loaned money to minority businessmen. In 1962, he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1997 Franklin D. Roosevelt Gold \$5

Ironically, the president who issued the Gold Recall Order of 1933, which called in America's gold coins and gold certificates, is shown on this commemorative. While it does not honor an anniversary, the coin was unveiled at the Four Freedoms Award dinner. During a speech in 1941, FDR noted the four freedoms were: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.



*James Smithson devoted his life to exploring the natural world.*

*Rachel Robinson accepting the Congressional Gold Medal for her deceased husband, Jackie Robinson.*



*Roosevelt's Four Freedom's speech is one of the most famous political speeches of the 20th century.*



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 1999 George Washington Death Bicentennial Gold \$5

In 1931, sculptor Laura Garden Fraser submitted this design for a competition for the Washington quarter. Although it was selected, because of the politics of the day, it ultimately lost to the present-day quarter design. For this \$5 gold piece, the mint adapted her original winning design to commemorate the 200th anniversary of George Washington's death, and honor his life and legacy.

## 2000 Library of Congress Bicentennial Bimetallic \$10

To honor the Library of Congress' 200th anniversary, the U.S. Mint issued the first-ever ringed, bimetallic commemorative. The mint used two separate planchets (coin blanks), an outer ring of .900 gold and a core of .9995 platinum, which bond together during striking. In 1814, the British burned the library, but Jefferson sold the government over 6,000 books from his own collection to start a new one.



**Composition:** .900 gold & .9995 platinum  
**Mints:** West Point



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2001 U.S. Capitol Visitor Center Gold \$5

Inside the U.S. Capitol is a hallway that extends more than 100 feet, called the Hall of Columns. Built in the 1850s, Corinthian columns, made from marble quarried in Massachusetts, border each side of the hall. This \$5 gold piece features an adaptation of the top of a column with the words 1800 FIRST CONVENING OF CONGRESS IN WASHINGTON.

*The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has dedicated its resources to preserve and protect George Washington's home.*



*This circa 1800 watercolor shows the North Wing of the U.S. Capitol before it was burned by the British.*



*The main Library of Congress Reading Room for humanities and social sciences.*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games Gold \$5

The Crystal Emblem of the games, a stylized snow crystal, is the central design element seen on this commemorative. Over 2,300 athletes competed in the games, and 78 events were held. The judges used instant replay for the first time in figure skating in these games, and awarded two gold medals in pairs skating.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2003 First Flight Centennial Gold \$10

Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright, shown on the coin, solved the problem of how to control flight by watching birds fly and working with kites. They invented wing-warping features that provide attitude (orientation), control and turning, through pilot operation. The coin's reverse shows their biplane. Constructed out of muslin and softwood, it weighed 700 pounds.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** San Francisco

## 2006 San Francisco Old Mint Centennial Gold \$5

At a little past 5 A.M. on April 18, 1906, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit San Francisco and devastated much of the city. San Francisco's Mint, "The Granite Lady," (featured on the coin) came through the earthquake and ensuing fire with minimal damage overall. During the days that followed, the mint supplied water from an artesian well, provided light, and served as a point for food distribution to citizens from miles around.

*Eight U.S. athletes, escorted by NY police and firefighters, carry the American flag that flew over the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 into the stadium for opening ceremonies at the 2002 Olympics.*



U.S. Navy photo by J. Odom for Global Postcard Photos



*The Wright brothers had two older brothers and a sister. Orville (left) and Wilbur (right) are shown above with their sister Katharine.*

*The San Francisco Mint as it appeared just days after the earthquake.*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2007 Jamestown 400th Anniversary Gold \$5

While exploring the Chickahominy River in December 1607, Captain John Smith was captured by men from Powhatan's tribe. Powhatan was a Native American chief of about 30 tribes living in the surrounding Jamestown area. Early the next year, Smith and Powhatan became trading partners. Both leaders are shown on the obverse of this \$5 gold piece, and the reverse shows the Old Church at Jamestown.

## 2008 Bald Eagle Gold \$5

This gold coin features two young bald eagles, and celebrates the bird's removal from the Endangered Species List. Known as "immatures," young bald eagles are brown and white speckled. The familiar white head and tail feathers don't appear until about the 5th year, when they fully molt. In the wild, eagles live for about 20 years.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2011 Medal of Honor Gold \$5

Struck to honor the highest award given to Armed Service members and to promote awareness of it, this coin depicts an original Medal of Honor on its obverse. Minerva – the Roman goddess of wisdom and war, who was depicted on the original medals – is featured on the reverse.



In the 1950s, artist Sidney King did a series of paintings about Jamestown. This shows Captain John Smith trading with Native Americans in Virginia.

National Park Service

*If Ben Franklin had his way, a turkey instead of an eagle would be on our coins.*



*President Calvin Coolidge presents submariner Henry Breault with a medal of honor in 1924.*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2011 U.S. Army Gold \$5

Representing the Army's wartime service over the past 236 years, this coin's imposing obverse design features soldiers from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II and modern eras. To honor the soldiers' constant record of loyalty and service to our nation, the coin proudly displays the Army's official emblem on the reverse.

## 2012 Star-Spangled Banner Gold \$5

In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Francis Scott Key's penning of "Defence of Fort M'Henry," this \$5 gold coin depicts a naval battle scene on the obverse. Key wrote the poem that would later become America's national anthem as the smoke cleared following the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** San Francisco

## 2013 5-Star General Douglas MacArthur Gold \$5

Best known for commanding the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II, General Douglas MacArthur is one of only five U.S. Army 5-Star Generals. Following his service, MacArthur went on to serve as the chairman of Remington Rand after briefly entertaining the idea of a run for the presidency. This \$5 gold coin honors that 5-Star general, while the Leavenworth Lamp adorns the reverse.

*Soldiers raising the American flag*



*Painting shows Francis Scott Key looking out on the American flag.*

*As promised, General MacArthur returns to the Philippines.*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame Gold \$5

Established in 1939 on what was then thought to be the 100th anniversary of baseball's creation, the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY honors some of the biggest names in the sport. For the Hall's 75th anniversary, America's first "curved" coins were issued – including this handsome gold piece.

## 2015 U.S. Marshals Service 225th Anniversary Gold \$5

Established by George Washington himself, the U.S. Marshals Service was created as a support to America's federal judicial system. Depicting the Marshals Service Star and a bald eagle holding a flag, this coin celebrates the 225th anniversary of those who work to enforce our nation's laws and ensure that justice is served.



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point



**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2016 Mark Twain Gold \$5

Hailed as one of America's finest authors, Mark Twain (born Samuel Clemens) was also a riverboat pilot, journalist and entrepreneur. The celebrated author is depicted on the obverse of this \$5 coin, while a steamboat is featured on the reverse (Twain's experiences as a riverboat pilot greatly influenced his works).

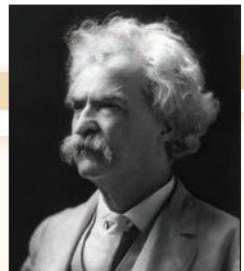


*The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY honors the greatest players of the sport.*

*U.S. Marshals escort James Meredith to class at the University of Mississippi in 1962.*



*Mark Twain in 1909*





**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## 2016 National Park Service 100th Anniversary Gold \$5

Conservationist John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt – two important figures in the history of America’s Park Service – are shown on the obverse of this gold commemorative. Muir was an early advocate of preserving land under the national park system, while Roosevelt set aside approximately 230 million acres of land during his presidency.

## 2017 Boys Town Centennial Gold \$5

Discouraged by his work with homeless men in Nebraska, Father Edward Flanagan decided to try ending a problem before it even began. He established Father Flanagan’s Home for Boys – later Boy’s Town – to give a stable home to displaced children. To this day, the organization helps more than 2 million people each year.



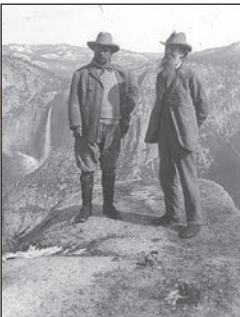
**Composition:** 90% gold  
**Mints:** West Point

## Caring For Your Coins

**P**roper handling and storage of coins is not difficult. It maintains the natural condition (and value) of collectible coins and helps preserve them for future collectors. Below are a few tips that will help you care for your collection.

- **Handling:** Coins should be held by their edges between thumb and forefinger (see picture) and, for Uncirculated or Proof coins, use soft cotton gloves.
- **Cleaning:** Do not clean high-quality Uncirculated and Proof coins. Improper cleaning can cause permanent loss of original mint finish, color and value, plus experts can easily detect an improperly cleaned coin.
- **Storage:** Humidity, air pollution, salt air and temperature extremes can sometimes affect surfaces of coins. Store your coins in protective holders or albums, and keep them in an area with relatively uniform temperature.

*Roosevelt and Muir at the top of Yosemite’s Glacier Point in 1903.*



*This statue and the phrase “He ain’t heavy, Father... he’s m’brother” are symbols of Boys Town.*



*Always use gloves, and hold your high-quality Uncirculated and Proof coins by their edges between your thumb and forefinger.*

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