

March 15, 2013

The Honorable Jack Lew
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

A public meeting of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (Committee) was held on Monday, March 11, 2013, at United States Mint Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Committee reviewed proposed obverse and reverse designs for the 2013 First Spouse Gold Coin and Medal Program honoring Ida McKinley, Edith Roosevelt, Helen Taft, Ellen Wilson and Edith Wilson.

For the coin and medal honoring Ida McKinley, the Committee recommended obverse design IM-O-01. The design received 13 of a possible 24 points. Reverse design IM-R-02 garnered 21 of a possible 24 points and, therefore, is submitted with a strong recommendation by the Committee.

Among the proposed designs honoring Edith Roosevelt, the Committee recommended obverse design ER-O-02. The design received 21 of 24 possible points. Reverse design ER-R-03 tallied a perfect score of 24 of 24 possible points and is forwarded with the Committee's strongest possible recommendation. The design provides an illustration of Edith Roosevelt's oversight of the White House restoration in 1902. Committee members felt the design was interesting and well executed and addresses an important contribution by Edith Roosevelt.

For the obverse of the coin honoring Helen Taft, the Committee recommended HT-O-02. The design received 18 of 24 possible points. Reverse design HT-R-04 earned the Committee's recommendation with a perfect 24 of 24 possible points. The design shows a branch of Japanese cherry blossoms, symbolizing Mrs. Taft's instrumental role in bringing cherry blossom trees to Washington, D.C. Members of the Committee felt the design was elegant and beautiful and will produce a very attractive coin and medal. The perfect score received by this design demonstrates the Committee's strongest possible recommendation that it be utilized for this coin and medal.

For the coin and medal honoring Ellen Wilson, the Committee recommended obverse design EIW-O-02 by assigning it 16 of the possible 24 points. For the reverse design, the Committee gave 21 of 24 possible points to design EIW-R-05 and, therefore, forwards the design with a strong recommendation. The design gives tribute to Mrs. Wilson's creation of the White House Rose Garden and includes a far view of the White House.