

## Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC)

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2012

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013

### A. Background

Public Law 108-15, approved on April 23, 2003, established the CCAC to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on themes and design proposals relating to circulating coinage, commemorative coinage, bullion coinage, Congressional Gold Medals and national medals. This report presents the CCAC's recommendations for commemorative coinage in each of the next five calendar years, and summarizes the CCAC's activities during fiscal year 2013.

### B. CCAC Recommendations

#### **1. General Recommendations**

The CCAC encourages the highest standards of artistic excellence for America's coins and medals. The committee recognizes the importance of the nation's coinage, not only in facilitating the needs of commerce, but also as an artistic medium to recognize the significant achievements of the nation and its people, to honor great national leaders of the past and to illustrate the foundational values of the republic. With recognition toward these ends, the CCAC would be pleased to help further artistic excellence by serving as a resource in the development of proposals for circulating coinage, circulating commemoratives and through providing recommendations on commemorative programs and medals.

#### **2. Circulating Commemoratives**

The past decade has seen a number of successful programs involving circulating commemorative coinage designs, including the 50 State Quarters<sup>®</sup> Program, Westward Journey Nickel Series<sup>™</sup>, Presidential \$1 Coin Program, Lincoln Bicentennial One-Cent Program, District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program, and the Native American \$1 Coin Program. These programs have brought exciting new designs to the nation's circulating coinage that have served to convey and celebrate important American historical events and achievements. The continuation of the Native American \$1 Coin Program and the America the Beautiful Quarters<sup>™</sup> Program will provide further opportunities for design innovation in U.S. circulating coinage.

To build on these successes, the CCAC recommends that consideration be given to a circulating coinage program that would commemorate a foundational American value; Liberty. Beginning with the founding of the U.S. Mint in 1792 and extending to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the personification of Liberty served as a major figure on U.S. circulating coinage. To commemorate and celebrate the tradition of American Liberty, the CCAC recommends a new circulating American Liberty Commemorative Coinage Program. Such a program could include an ongoing circulating commemorative coinage series inclusive of the dime, quarter and half dollar beginning in 2015. Each year, one denomination, either the dime or quarter, would be issued with an image representing Liberty along with a corresponding reverse design. These

new coins would be co-issued with the existing presidential designs. The series could begin with a Liberty Dime issued alongside the Roosevelt Dime in 2015. The Liberty Dime would be a one-year issue and would be retired at the end of the year. A Liberty Quarter would be issued alongside the Washington Quarter in 2016 as a one-year issue. The rotation would begin again in 2018 with a new one-year design for the Liberty Dime and would be co-issued with the Roosevelt Dime. This alternating process between the dime and quarter would continue into future years. The program would also include a new Liberty half dollar series issued as a numismatic product. Designs on the Liberty half dollar would be replaced on a ten-year interval. With these new coins, America's coinage would include a new series of artistic and emblematic images commemorating Liberty; a core American value.

In 2014, the Kennedy Half Dollar will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its introduction. In recognition of this anniversary, the CCAC recommends the Mint produce a special 2014 circulating issue of the half dollar or a bullion metal version of the coin.

### **3. Numismatic Commemoratives**

The United States Congress has a long tradition of authorizing numismatic commemoratives, minted and issued by the United States Mint for sale to the general public. The Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208) provides that the Secretary may mint and issue no more than two commemorative coin programs in any calendar year. The CCAC recommends that each year's two programs should be selected from the following alternatives:

#### **2014**

*Programs already enacted:*

**Civil Rights Act of 1964 Commemorative Coin Act**

**National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act**

#### **2015**

*Programs already enacted:*

**U.S. Marshalls Service Commemorative Coin Act**

**March of Dimes Commemorative Coin Act**

#### **2016**

*Programs already enacted:*

**Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act**

*Programs recommended by the CCAC:*

**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of U.S. Highway Route 66.** One of the original U.S. Highways, Route 66 was established on November 11, 1926. The 2,448 mile long highway became one of the most famous roads in America, traversing eight states, inclusive of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Route 66 served as a

major path for those who migrated west, especially during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, and it supported the economies of the communities through which the road passed. It was recognized in popular culture by both a hit song and the Route 66 television show in the 1960s. Recommended mintage: not more than a total of 750,000 clad half dollars for an eight coin series. The history of the highway in each of the eight states would be commemorated with a half dollar bearing a unique obverse design. All coins would bear a common reverse commemorating the highway.

## 2017

### **Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act**

*Programs recommended by the CCAC:*

**Sesquicentennial of the Alaska Purchase.** In 1867, the United States purchased the Alaska Territory from the Russian Empire. The United States added 586,412 square miles of new territory with the purchase and gained a land rich in resources and abundant beauty. Recommended mintage: not more than 500,000 silver dollars.

## 2018

*Programs recommended by the CCAC:*

**Centennial of the United States Airmail Service:** On May 15, 1918, the United States Post Office Department initiated the Washington-Philadelphia-New York route as the first airmail route for which special Air Mail stamps were issued. Recommended mintage: not more than 500,000 silver dollars.

**Centennial of the end of World War I:** On November 11, 1918, Germany signed the Armistice of Compiègne ending World War I. Peace brought much needed relief to a war torn world. Recommended mintage: not more than 500,000 high relief silver dollars bearing Anthony de Francisci's Peace Dollar obverse and reverse designs first issued in 1921; and not more than 500,000 silver dollars bearing a modern design commemorating the end of the war and honoring those Americans who served.

## **4. Other Recommendations**

In 2011, the current design of the \$1 Silver Eagle Bullion Coin had been in use for 25 years. Recognizing an opportunity to advance efforts to pursue modern excellence in the design of U.S. coinage, the CCAC recommends the \$1 Silver Eagle Coin be redesigned, beginning in 2016, within the requirements of the coin's original enacting legislation, Public Law 99-61. This statute requires an obverse design symbolic of Liberty and a reverse design of an eagle. In an effort to create continuity between the obverse and reverse designs selected for this coin, the CCAC further recommends that the design selection process focus on selecting obverse and reverse designs created by the same artist.

Medals provide an excellent opportunity to develop, explore and advance the craft of medallion art and to showcase the artistic abilities of the U.S. Mint. In an effort to promote artistic excellence in U.S. coins and medals, the CCAC recommends initiation in 2016 of an "Expressions of America" art medals program that will provide opportunities for innovation in the use of advanced design techniques. These could include ultra high relief, incused design treatments, laser etching, selective gold-plating, holograms, colorization, gold cameo inserts, holographic colors, or bi-metallic outer rings. The program would provide for free artistic expression and the creation of beautiful works of art focused on American themes. Annual design themes could be

developed through the U.S. Mint with final theme selections made by the Secretary of the Treasury. The program could be limited to not more than two medals each year.