



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES MINT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 18, 2012

Mr. Gary B. Marks
Chairperson
Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee
501 Pine View Lane
Bellevue, ID 83313

Dear Mr. Marks:

Enclosed for review and comment by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee at its meeting on April 26, 2012, are the candidate designs for the Code Talkers Recognition Congressional Medal Program. In accordance with Public Law 110-420, the United States Mint will strike gold and silver medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers during World War I and World War II. Bronze duplicates of the medal will be made available for sale to the general public.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts will review the enclosed candidate designs at its meeting on May 17, 2012. Once the designs have been reviewed and any revisions incorporated, as appropriate, we will send the recommended candidate designs to the Department of the Treasury for final review and approval.

We appreciate your review of the Congressional Medal candidate designs honoring the Native American Code Talkers at your April meeting. A representative of the United States Mint will present the candidate designs at this meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Peterson
Deputy Director
United States Mint

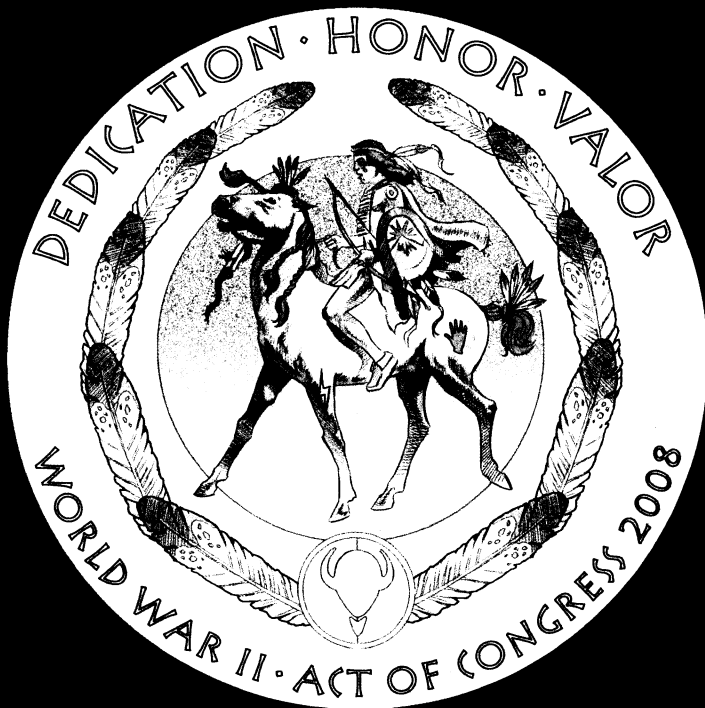
- Enclosures: 1) Candidate designs - Comanche Nation
2) Candidate designs - Kiowa Tribe
3) Candidate designs - Santee Dakota Sioux Tribe
4) Candidate designs - Tlingit Tribe
5) Candidate designs - Descriptions



Comanche Nation
Reverse-01



Comanche Nation
Reverse-02



Kiowa Tribe
Reverse-01



Kiowa Tribe
Reverse-02



Kiowa Tribe
Reverse-03



Santee Sioux
Reverse-01



Santee Sioux
Reverse-02



Santee Sioux
Reverse-03



Tlingit Tribe
Reverse-01



Tlingit Tribe
Reverse-02

Comanche Nation

Obverse Designs



The design variations above feature the COMANCHE CODE and SPIRIT TALKER monument located at Comanche Nation Headquarters in Lawton, Oklahoma. This imagery for the medal was chosen by the majority of the Comanche Code Talker descendents. According to the Comanche Nation, “this image is how we honor our Code Talkers.” Inscriptions are: “NUMUNU” and “COMANCHE CODE TALKERS.” The Comanche Nation chose the inscription NUMUNU meaning “People,” the word that the Comanche Nation uses to refer to itself.

Reverse Designs



The design variations above feature the Comanche Nation’s logo, the 90th Infantry Division Insignia on the left and the 4th Infantry Division Insignia on the right. The Comanche logo features a horse and rider, which is symbolic of the Comanche Nation as “‘Lords of the Plains’ and the greatest Light Cavalry in the eyes of those who fought the Comanche in battle.” Inscriptions are: “PUHIHWITEKWA EKASHPANA,” “WORLD WAR I,” “WORLD WAR II,” and “ACT OF CONGRESS 2008.” According to the Comanche Nation, when loosely interpreted, PUHIHWITEKWA means “Metal Talker” while EKASHPANA refers to “olden day Military Officers who wore red sashes,” thus “*Soldiers talking on phones made of metal.*” The inscriptions “WORLD WAR I and WORLD WAR II” were chosen to indicate the wars in which the Comanche Code Talkers served and the insignias were chosen because the Comanche Code Talkers wore the 90th Infantry Division Insignia in World War I and the 4th Infantry Division Insignia in World War II.

Kiowa Tribe

Obverse Designs



The design variations above feature Code Talkers from Kiowa Tribe. The design is inscribed: “*KIOWA TRIBE CODE TALKERS*” and “*689TH FIELD ARTILLERY, EUROPE,*” the U.S. Army unit in which they served.

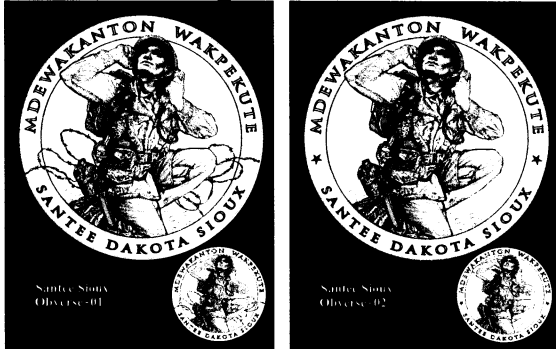
Reverse Designs



The design variations above feature the Kiowa Tribe logo. It depicts a Kiowa Warrior on horseback with bow and arrow prepared for battle. The cape covering his back was taken from a Mexican Officer during battle and is worn as a “War Trophy.” The ten feathers represent the ten “sacred” medicine bundles of the tribe and the Buffalo Head is representative of Kiowa’s respect for the buffalo which provided food, clothing, shelter and weapons to sustain them throughout their years on the Plains. Inscriptions are: “*DEDICATION,*” “*HONOR,*” “*VALOR,*” “*WORLD WAR II*” and “*ACT OF CONGRESS 2008.*” According to the Kiowa Tribe, the inscriptions “describe the Code Talkers’ dedication to military service, indicates the war they served in, and highlights the year in which the legislation was approved.”

Santee Sioux Tribe

Obverse Designs



The design variations above feature a Santee Dakota Sioux Code Talker in uniform, looking up and focusing on the task required of him. Design one depicts barbed wire, a thorny and visceral symbol of the threat to the soldier. Inscriptions are: “*MDEWAKANTON*,” “*WAKPEKUTE*,” and “*SANTEE DAKOTA SIOUX*.” According to the Santee Dakota Sioux Tribe, Mdewakanton translates to *Dwellers at Spirit Lake* and Wakpekute means *shooters amongst the leaves*.

Reverse Designs



Design one depicts the Santee Dakota Sioux seal while designs two and three are variations. The Santee Dakota Sioux seal features a bald eagle with outspread wings facing left clasp an arrow in its talons with a peace pipe below. It is inscribed: “*WORLD WAR I*,” “*WORLD WAR II*,” and “*ACT OF CONGRESS 2008*.” Design three has the additional inscriptions “*HONOR*,” “*DEDICATION*,” and “*VALOR*.”

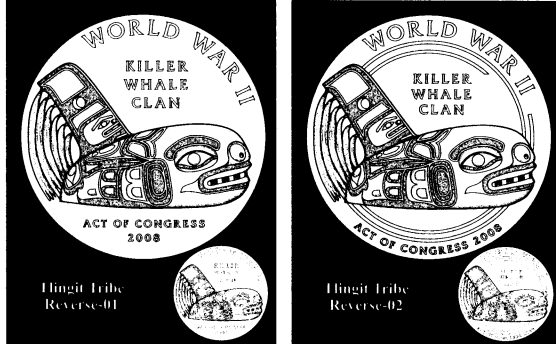
Tlingit Tribe

Obverse Designs



The design variations above feature a Tlingit Code Talker in a World War II uniform and equipment on his back. The antenna on his equipment is raised as he talks on his radio, sending a coded message. He is kneeling on his right knee and holds his rifle in his left hand in case of attack. Design one depicts generic foliage to show that he is out "in the field" as he works. The three semi-circles signify the transmission of radio signals. The design is inscribed: "*TLINGIT WARRIORS CODE TALKERS.*"

Reverse Designs



This design depicts a killer whale headdress, representing the Tlingit Code Talkers of World War II who were affiliated with the Killer Whale Clan. The Clan often wears this headdress in their ceremonies.