

## CCAC Public Meeting Notes

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### **Introduction**

Hello lovely folks! I hope that everyone is doing well. I would like to apologize to my colleagues and distinguished guests for my absence today; I wish I could be here with everyone in person as this portfolio is one of great interest to me. I am sending my notes which I've tried to keep as succinct as possible, and I'm looking forward to hearing everyone's impressions, too.

### **Iranian Hostage Crisis Commemorative Medals**

I want to start off by expressing my profound gratitude towards the former hostages, and to thank them for taking the time to be here with us today. Your lives and your stories are a testament to your tenacity and resilience. And your (collective) presence serves as a necessary reminder that the events of the Iranian Hostage Crisis are very recent history. Your sacrifices and your ordeals have not been forgotten, and from my heart I wish you and your families continued peace. I'm so glad that you all made it back.

#### **Obverse**

- I agree one hundred percent with the stated preference for the obverse, IH-O-01A, as this was my favorite in the portfolio, as well. The design is well-proportioned, it's detailed (shout-out to the design team for the face renderings because they are beautiful) and most importantly it highlights the people, American citizens, who were at the center of the crisis. Framing the former hostages' faces within the number "444" so starkly also emphasizes just how long they'd been held, which is necessary to understanding this situation. Going back to my earlier point, this

particular design emphasizes that these were/are living breathing folks who endured and survived an ordeal, rather than footnotes or historical abstracts.

- The personalization in this design is also the reason why I didn't choose IH-O-05. While the concepts are similar and both designs are striking, the featureless face in the latter connotes a sense of anonymity that doesn't have the same level of impact on the viewer. The words and information are there, but it seems a little dour in terms of emotional impact.
- It's also important to emphasize the miracle and relief of the former hostages returning home. While IH-O-05 wasn't one of my top choices for the obverse design, I do like this concept in abstract, especially with the rays of the sun guiding their long-awaited journey back. I'd love to hear from my fellow committee members about their impressions of this one and how that return element can be worked into the final choice.

### Reverse

I am a simple lady in some respects; I see a floral/arboreal design on a coin, and I start to get excited. Plants have their own varied symbolism and so they work well other elements, especially when trying to convey important messages.

- IH-R-07A is my favorite of the reverse designs because it combines elements that I enjoy from the other designs (the ribbon, the rosette, the oak tree, the passage of time) into one. As I mixed and matched different obverse and reverse designs, I kept coming back to this one. The juxtaposition of the oak tree in the United States pairs well with the faces of the former hostages as they were held in Iran, demonstrating how their (the former hostages') family members were thinking about them and fighting to get them back home. The coin is framed very well; the only adjustment I would make would be the typeface. I like the typeface of IH-R-07 with the wider, open letters on this design.

- IH-R-06 was another favorite because of the messages, but the drawback is that it's very text-heavy and does seem a bit crowded. The intricacy on the rosette and the ribbon is nice, though.
- Although I like the “mighty oak” imagery of IH-R-03 and IH-R-03A, the “444 days” message is already on the obverse of the coin, so it could be seen as a bit repetitive. But at the same time, that same “444” wording could also be used to talk about the impact of the crisis from the different perspectives (home vs. abroad) so I'm on the fence with this one.
- I also wonder whether there's some way to incorporate the acorn imagery of IH-R-01, in with the imagery of the older oak trees as a way of showing the passage of time, as well as the former hostages' strength.

### **Native American \$1 Coin**

Thank you again to the representatives of the Oneida Nations for their input and insights. It's inspired me to do more research on Polly Cooper and Oneida Nation cooking practices, which have been fascinating.

- I see the changes that have been made to the design since the last meeting in terms of the juxtaposition between Polly Cooper and George Washington, the way that the corn is positioned for observation versus as a gift or offering, and so forth. I like and appreciate the changes, but my choice is still design 26 NA-07. I love the way that it focuses on Cooper herself and the significance of the food itself, while still emphasizing the Oneida Nation and their connection to Valley Forge. I'm curious to hear others' impressions and whether their opinions have changed.

### **Closing**

To quote the great Ethel Barrymore, “that's all there is; there isn't any more.” Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting and discussing with everyone soon. Have a great week, everyone. And happy early Juneteenth!