

**This report was formally accepted by the CCAC Members during the October 25, 2023
Public Meeting.**

To: Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee
Subject: Report from the Future Numismatic Themes Subcommittee (2023)

Membership of the Subcommittee:

- Arthur Bernstein, Subcommittee Chair
- Michael Moran
- Darla Jackson
- John Saunders
- Kellen Hoard
- Dr. Lawrence Brown, CCAC Chair

Commemorative Issues

a. Route 66 Established 1926

U. S. Highway 66, popularly known as Route 66, embodies a rich history that goes beyond the road itself. It not only served as an artery of transportation but also as an agent of social transformation. The highway stretches 2,400 miles from the shores of Lake Michigan, through the Ozarks across Oklahoma into the open plains of the West. The highway churns through the mesa lands of Arizona and New Mexico before entering the Mohave Desert to end at Los Angeles. Route 66 had its official beginnings in 1926 when the Bureau of Public Roads launched the nation's first Federal highway system. Cobbled together from existing local and state roads, the highway quickly became popular as the shortest and best scenic route from Chicago through St. Louis to Los Angeles.

The highway brought new revenue to the merchants of small and large towns that had been heretofore isolated. As the highway became busier, support businesses, offering fuel, food, and lodging, flourished along its right of way. During the depression and Dustbowl years, the highway saw the migration of destitute people seeking fresh starts and new opportunities. With the onset of World War II, the highway facilitated perhaps the greatest wartime mobilization as thousands of workers headed to the West Coast to work defense jobs. In the decades following the war, Route 66 experienced its golden years. Families headed west on the highway to the Grand Canyon, Disneyland, and the beaches of Southern California. In the 1960s the highway became a cultural icon when a television series debuted featuring the adventures of two young men seeking their kicks on Route 66.

The development of the Interstate Highway network spelled the end of Route 66 as an effective transportation link. However, in 1990, the United States Congress passed PL 1102-400 that recognized that Route 66 had "become a symbol of the American peoples' heritage of travel and their legacy of seeking a better life." On the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Route 66, the CCAC proposes a commemorative coin program that recognizes the contribution of

this highway to the cultural fabric of the United States. The CCAC recommends that a silver dollar be issued for each state (Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California) through which Route 66 passed with themes appropriate and unique to the highway in each state. In addition, a five-dollar gold piece should be issued that incorporates a unifying theme for Route 66 in the life of the United States.

b. FIFA World Cup (US/Mexico/Canada)

The FIFA World Cup is coming to North America in 2026. For the first time ever, it will be hosted by three nations—the United States, Mexico, and Canada—and, in a break from tradition, it will feature a massive 48 teams. The last time the United States hosted the World Cup, in 1994, attendance records were shattered (totaling over 3.5 million fans in person) and viewership records (over 32 billion viewers around the world). Every four years the World Cup serves as a focal point for culture, sports, and the passions of the world at large. A commemorative coin would serve as one effective conduit for the sheer enthusiasm which will undoubtedly rock the nation and world. Not only could it commemorate and celebrate the event itself—it could serve as a key tool to share the values we hold around the uniting power of sports. In 1994, a clad, silver, and gold commemorative coin program was launched to celebrate that year’s World Cup; that program was the fourth-best performing of the 1990s, and the tenth-best performing modern commemorative series of all time.

c. Roberto Clemente

His exceptional career achievements, including as a member of the World Series Champions teams in 1960 and 1971, the latter in which he was recognized as the Most Valuable Player, 1966 National League Most Valuable Player, 15 All-Star Player selections, 4 national batting titles, 12 Gold Glove Awards and over 3,000 hits, demonstrate his unparalleled dedication to the sport and his mastery of skills that inspire athletes to this day. Indeed, Major League Baseball presents an annual Roberto Clemente Award to the player that best embodies Roberto Clemente’s value of service to others and represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy, and positive contributions, both on and off the field.

Posthumously, he was the first Puerto Rican to be inducted in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Congressional Gold Medal. Even before his illustrious baseball career he demonstrated his appreciation to this country. In 1958, Roberto Clemente enlisted into the United States Marine Corps and served until 1964. He was inducted into the Marine Corps Hall of Fame in 2003 and into the Puerto Rican Veterans Hall of Fame 15 years later.

Beyond baseball, Clemente’s significance as a trailblazer for Latin American players is undeniable. He paved the way for generations of players from Latin countries, fostering diversity and enriching the game’s global appeal. He facilitated and hosted charitable and humanitarian efforts for underprivileged youth, promoting equality for Latino Americans and delivering significant financial aid to Puerto Rico and other Latin American countries. His tragic death, while delivering aid to earthquake-stricken Nicaragua, represents his humanitarian spirit and an unwavering compassion that resonates with fans worldwide. This is exemplified by numerous

proclamations commemorating him by Mayors, Governors, and legislative bodies across the United States.

There are four reasons for a commemorative coin program recognizing Roberto Clemente:

- First, such a program would benefit from the lessons learned from other baseball commemorative coin programs such as the 1997 Jackie Robinson, the 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame, and the 2022 Negro Baseball Leagues commemorative coin programs.
- Second, immortalizing Clemente on a coin could foster an enduring connection between sports and philanthropy, honoring his legacy as a beacon of excellence on and off the field.
- Third, his broader impact on cultural integration, civil rights, and equality, commemorated through coins, would serve as a reminder of his role in advancing social change.
- Finally, by showcasing Clemente's transcendent influence, commemorative coins can excite youth across the United States and unite sports enthusiasts, social activists, and history appreciators alike, underscoring the power of sports icons to shape society positively.

d. WWII Pacific Front Philippines/Philippine-American Scouts/80th Anniversary of Philippine Independence (Commemorative Set)

2026 will be the 80th year since America granted Philippines Independence on July 4, 1946. The goodwill and friendship with America were immediately commemorated by the Philippines whose first coinage as an independent country was a two-coin set (peso and half peso) commemorating General Douglas MacArthur, the General who led the effort to drive out the Japanese conquerors during World War II. When forced to leave the Philippines, MacArthur had famously stated "I shall return," and in fact he did so, landing on Leyte in October 1944. The Filipinos loved him for it.

One Subcommittee member was fortunate to live in the Philippines as a young banker with American Express in 1974. He has spoken eloquently of Filipinos affection towards Americans and how the Filipinos went out of their way to show respect and kindness. He was often invited to family dinners with his contemporaries. At such dinners, the patriarch of the family would prepare a special seat at the table next to himself and tell stories about fighting as a guerrilla and later with the Americans to drive out the Japanese. The granting of the long-promised independence and the joint efforts during World War II created goodwill that is still present today.

The granting of independence to the Philippines in 1946 was the start of a decolonization movement that was one of the most significant events following World War II and that made major changes in the map of the World. The example that America created in granting their most significant colony independence allowed America to push Great Britain and the other European nations to grant independence to their colonies. There was one of the most historically significant events in the post-World War II era.

America has never commemorated this historical event of major importance with any commemorative coinage. While it might have been more traditional to have done so on the 50th anniversary, the idiom “better late than never” holds true. We could wait for the 100th anniversary, but waiting another 20 years is too long.

e. Loretta Lynn (or Congressional Medal)

There is strong support for a Loretta Lynn Commemorative Coin or Congressional Gold Medal. Loretta Lynn (1932-2022) was an American country music singer, songwriter, actress and author. In a career spanning six decades, Lynn released multiple gold albums. Potential Recipient Organizations include the Country Music Hall of Fame and/or the Women Songwriters Hall of Fame. A coin/medal honoring Loretta Lynn would recognize her place in American history and culture as she touched the nation’s heart with her life story of surviving poverty to reach the pinnacle of success. Her music tackled controversial topics including birth control, feminism, war, and equality of the sexes. Her signature song, bestselling book, and Oscar-winning movie was “Coal Miner’s Daughter.” The suggestion for honoring Loretta Lynn was received at the CCAC website and had an attached supporting petition with close to 23,000 names.

f. Grace Hopper (or Congressional Medal)

Grace Hopper (1906-1992) was an American computer scientist, Mathematician and United States Navy rear admiral. A pioneer of computer programming, Hopper is responsible for a number of firsts in the field, including inventing one of the first linkers, devising the theory of machine-independent programming languages and creating programming language which is still being used today. She earned a Ph.D. in mathematics and mathematical psychics from Yale University and went on to be a professor of mathematics at Vassar University. From there joined the Navy Reserves. A coin or medal would honor her contribution to computer science and recognize her place in American history.

g. Working Canines

There have been numerous recommendations to commemorate dogs. Working dogs was included in an earlier recommendation and there is already legislation. Nevertheless, the Subcommittee believe there is strong public interest in honoring the work of canines and those that train, handle, and support them. Working canines are an important part of search and rescue operations, military defense, and aid those with disabilities.

h. 2028 Olympics

Since the initiation of the modern commemorative coin era, the United States has issued commemorative coin sets for the Olympic Games when held within this country. Included were the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984 and Atlanta in 1996 and the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in 2002. The Summer Olympic Games will return to Los Angeles in 2028. The inclusion of a commemorative coin program as part of these games would provide a symbol of national pride as well as raise funds for the support of the athletes participating in the competitions.

This program would also add interest for a sports related subset within the modern commemorative coin program that would support market demand for past issues.

i. Wildlife–Endangered Animals

This theme supports a recommendation, previously recommended by the CCAC in its FY 2022 Annual Report, for a Commemorative Coin Program to recognize conservation/ wildlife impacted seriously by climate change and other environmental factors. As noted, market research suggested that an animals theme was the highest rated theme for both adults and youth. Two related dates that support interest in the theme are the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species Act in 2023 and the 50th Anniversary of US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2024. This theme would offer potential to work with a large number of environmental and wildlife conservation groups while holding the interest of the following groups as stated in the 2022 Annual Report: Congressional interest (various wildlife/conservation caucuses), national and international interest, youth interest in wildlife.

j. Ruth Bader Ginsburg (or Congressional Medal)

Ruth Bader Ginsburg gained worldwide recognition for her twenty-seven-year tenure on the Supreme Court, but her work prior to that appointment is perhaps equally deserving of commemoration. She variously served as the founding counsel of the ACLU Women’s Rights Project, Associate Director of Columbia Law School’s Project on International Procedure, first female tenured faculty member at Columbia Law School, judge on the D.C. Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, and a leading legal advocate for gender equality across the United States, among other roles. Once appointed to the Supreme Court in 1993, she became an internationally lauded defender of gender equality and the rights of Americans. She fought against sex discrimination in *United States v. Virginia*, for equal pay in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, and on behalf of voting rights in *Shelby County, Ala. v Holder*. For many young girls in the United States and around the world, she became an important role model outside of political contexts. She was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame, Forbes 100 Most Powerful Women, Time’s 100 Most Influential People, and held 30 honorary degrees. Among modern commemorative coin themes since 1982, seventeen men have served as the centerpoint of those themes, including Chief Justice John Marshall. Just two women have: Dolley Madison and Christa McAuliffe (a third, Harriet Tubman, will be featured in 2024). In 2023, the USPS announced—to national headlines in every major news outlet—that Ginsburg will be placed on a stamp to commemorate “her groundbreaking contributions to justice, gender equality and the rule of law.”

k. Musical Pioneers (Including Marian Anderson, Other African Americans in Jazz/Classical/Opera)

The theme ‘Musical Pioneers’ was recommended and is presented here as a commemorative coin set honoring three African American opera singers that sing in three different vocal categories: Soprano, Jessye Mae Norman, who was called “one of the great sopranos of the past half century” by the Metropolitan Opera. Born in Georgia in 1945, she achieved worldwide fame by performing in the best opera houses throughout the world. Norman was recognized for her unique voice known as a ‘Falcon’, which is “close to a mezzo-soprano in tone, but technically a dramatic soprano in range.”

Contralto, Marian Anderson, who was known for her wide range of music, from operas to spirituals, was born in Philadelphia in 1897. In 1955 Anderson was the first African American singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera. She focused on championing human rights through her work with the United Nations Human Rights Committee, as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United States Department of State and by participating in the Civil Rights Movement. Anderson received countless honors, including a congressional gold medal in 1977, and a Grammy lifetime Achievement Award in 1991.

Bass-Baritone, William Warfield, who was known as both a singer and actor. Warfield was born in Arkansas in 1920 and went on to become a prominent artist during the Civil Rights era. He is known for his work with important artists of his time, for representing the United States on foreign tours, his work as a teacher and for his honors, such as winning a Grammy Award in 1984.

Each of these singers have shown what strength can be shared through song and a commemorative coin set would highlight their inspiring stories.

I. Submariners

This theme was recommended by a retired US Navy submariner having served as an electrician on three nuclear submarines over twenty years. While the US Mint has produced a silver medal commemorating the US Navy, the design does not reflect the uniqueness of a submarine. This absence is significant given that submariners epitomize the sacrifice and valor, facing the perils of the deep sea to safeguard national security. These underwater sentinels operate in isolation and silence, often for months on end, confronting cramped quarters, technical challenges, and the ever-present threat of danger. They suffered the highest mortality rate of American service personnel in WW II even though submarines accounted for less than 2% of naval resources.

Recognizing submariners on commemorative coins is a powerful way to immortalize their role in American history and culture, these coins would serve also as a lasting reminder of the courage and determination exhibited by submariners throughout history, reminding future generations of their pivotal role in safeguarding the nation. Such coins not only honor the individuals who have served but also foster a sense of national pride and unity, as citizens rally around the shared admiration for these unsung heroes. By depicting submariners on commemorative coins, the United States demonstrates its commitment to preserving the memory of these remarkable men and women, ensuring that their sacrifices and achievements remain a source of inspiration for years to come.

m. Juneteenth

Juneteenth (officially Juneteenth National Independence Day) became a federal holiday in 2021 commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. Its name is a blend of “June” and “nineteenth,” and celebrates the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when in the wake of the Civil War, the Union military leadership ordered the enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas. The State of Texas was the first state to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday in 1979. The legislation declared Juneteenth a “holiday of significance.” The long legacy of the celebratory

jubilees and those involved in creating awareness related to the celebration offer a rich variety of themes for commemoration.

n. Bass Reeves

In 2015, the US Mint commemorated the 225th anniversary of United States Marshal Service with a three-coin commemorative coin set. However, none of these phenomenal designs revealed the story of the most impressive and underappreciated lawman of all time in US history. Bass Reeves was believed to be the first African American appointed to the US Marshal Service west of the Mississippi river. Born into slavery in the late 1830s, Bass escaped to Indian Territory sometime during the Civil War. After emancipation, Reeves migrated to Van Buren, Arkansas. In 1875 Judge Isaac Parker appointed Bass Reeves a deputy U.S. Marshal to the Western District of Arkansas encompassing 74,000 square miles and including the Indian Territory of present-day Oklahoma.

By all indications, he was one of the most productive and respected deputies who served, policing a territory in which 120 deputy marshals were killed, during a tumultuous period in American history. During Reeve’s 32-year career as a deputy U.S. Marshal, he arrested as many as 3,000 criminals.

In 1992, Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. He was the first African American inducted. In recognition of his accomplishments and service, on May 26, 2012, the citizens of Fort Smith, Arkansas dedicated a life-and-a-quarter size bronze monument honoring U.S. Deputy Marshal Bass Reeves titled, “Into the Territories” by sculptor Harold T. Holden.

Honoring Bass Reeves on a US commemorative coin would be a tribute to an inspiring figure whose legacy encapsulates the values of justice, determination, and diversity that the nation upholds. With such a commemorative coin, the United States would send a powerful message about the importance of equality and the tireless pursuit of justice, celebrating a role model whose accomplishments transcend racial and social barriers and continue to inspire generations.

Furthermore, Reeves’ legacy extends beyond his law enforcement achievements; he became a symbol of hope for those seeking justice in a time marked by turmoil. By featuring him on a coin, the US would highlight a figure whose life story resonates with people from all walks of life, fostering unity and understanding while paying homage to a genuine American legend whose impact deserves to be celebrated and remembered.

Congressional Gold Medal

- a. Loretta Lynn (or Comm.)
- b. Grace Hopper (or Comm.)
- c. Ruth Bader Ginsburg (or Comm.)

Silver Medal/Bullion

a. Draft Designs of Liberty

With the decision to mandate an image of Liberty upon our coinage in 1792, the United States diverted away from the past practice of incorporating the images of reigning monarchs upon circulating coinage of established countries. Thus began a long tradition of incorporating a female image of Liberty upon our various coins that continued until 1948. Today no examples of the traditional female Liberty can be found in our circulating coins. In addition, following the Civil War, a multitude of pattern designs were developed within the United States Mint featuring some outstanding examples of female Liberty. These designs were extremely limited in coinage and are beyond the means of the average coin collector today to acquire. Reintroducing the designs of Liberty from circulating and pattern coins in the form of a silver medal program would give the modern collector access to these beautiful designs that are unique to the heritage of both the mint and the country that it serves.

b. Incuse Indian Head Gold Coins (1929 Anniversary)

The Indian Head five dollar gold piece is often overshadowed by the gold coin designs of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Yet this design is unique on two counts. It represents the first realistic portrayal of a Native American upon United States coinage. Likewise the eagle on the reverse diverts from the allegoric and heraldic eagles previously portrayed upon American coinage. The design also represents a departure from past practice as it is incused below the surface of the coin to better facilitate high relief. This design has stood the test of time and deserves to be recognized for the forward thinking it represented when first issued in 1908. It is proposed to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the last year of its striking in 2029.

c. STEAM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Arts, Math)

This theme supports a recommendation, previously recommended by the CCAC in its FY 2022 Annual Report, for a National Medal program commemorating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). STEAM reflects the holistic nature of modern education and innovation. Incorporating these disciplines into the medal collection acknowledges the interconnectedness of these fields and encourages a more well-rounded approach to learning. In today's world, breakthroughs often arise from the intersection of these domains.

By commemorating STEAM, the US Mint reflects America's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, mirroring the way breakthroughs are achieved in today's complex, interconnected landscape. This recognition would also resonate with educators, students, and professionals alike, inspiring them to pursue a multidisciplinary approach and harness the power of diverse knowledge. Through the artistic representation of STEAM concepts on medals, the US Mint could foster curiosity and excitement, ultimately encouraging students to explore these disciplines further. In an era where technology, art, and science are increasingly intertwined, honoring STEAM on medals is not just a nod to their present importance, but an investment in the ongoing advancement of society, where creativity and critical thinking intersect with progress and innovation.

Circulating Coins

a. Mint Set With Full Copper Cent or W Mintmark

The two major traditional offerings by the U.S. Mint of coins to collectors have been Proof and Mint Sets. Proof Sets have been issued regularly since 1936 (with the exception of 1943-1949, and 1965-1967 when special mint sets were issued) and mint sets from 1947 (again with the exception of 1965-1967 when special mint sets, a kind of halfway between proof and mint sets) were issued. Mint Sets are seen by some as less significant than proof sets with generally lower mintage and producing less revenue. In 1996, a mint set was issued with a non-circulating dime minted at West Point with this mint marked dime only available in mint sets. This caused a 40% increase in the sales of mint sets over the previous year. In 2009, the Proof and Mint sets had cents with 4 different reverse designs representing four major aspects of Lincoln's life. They contained the 95% Copper cents composition that was in use prior to the introduction of the Copper plated zinc cents in 1982. This created additional interest and sales of both Proof and Mint sets. However, as these Copper cents were available in both the Proof and Mint Sets, it did not have the more powerful boost for Mint Sets that would have happened if they had been in Mint Sets alone.

We propose that future Mint Sets contain a Copper (instead of Copper plated Zinc) cent on a regular basis each year. This would make the Mint Sets something special and almost certainly boost sales at very little cost to the Mint.

In the coin collection boom of the late 1950s and 1960s, Lincoln cents were by far the most collected of all coins. The issuance of a low mintage (based on current mint set sales, even with a nice boost from the Copper Cent) Copper cent on an ongoing basis would be a boon to Lincoln cent collectors and could renew interest in the series.

The reverse of the cent could again be used to commemorate various events as part of the 2026 America Semiquincentennial celebration.

b. \$5 and/or \$10 Higher Value Circulating Coins

As the CCAC enabling legislation includes language referring to advising the Secretary of the Treasury on any theme or design proposals relating to circulating coinage, the Subcommittee is suggesting CCAC recommend to the Secretary the legislative pursuit of higher value coins to be used by the public in its spending. Because we value the role of coinage in American society and because coins can be a cost-effective medium of exchange, we believe making \$5 and \$10 coins available for spending will renew the relevancy of American coinage. There is no question that lower denomination coins in this country are seen to be of little use. As has been done in other countries (e.g., Switzerland's 1, 2, and 5 Franc coins, United Kingdom 1 and 2 Pound coins, Euro 1 and 2 Euro coins), we support adding higher face value coins to the American pocket and pocketbook.