



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

October 5, 2022

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20220

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting on September 27, 2022, during which the CCAC reviewed obverse and reverse candidate designs for Congressional Gold Medal to the Women known as “Rosie the Riveter.” With this letter, I present the CCAC’s recommendations.

Public Law 116-195 awards a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other material to win the war, who were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter,” in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations. The term “Rosie the Riveter” includes any woman who held employment or volunteered in support of the war efforts during World War II.

A shortage of white male workers led to active recruitment by the U.S. Government for war industry jobs. Initially, beginning in 1942, white middle class women were recruited, followed by minority men, and finally minority women. Integration of women and minorities into the workforce was initially met with resistance; however, these new opportunities nudged the door open for equal rights and profoundly impacted both the Civil Rights Movement and the Women's Movement in the decades to follow. During World War II, a minimum of six million, and potentially as many as 16 million, women entered the workforce.

Home Front workers faced many challenges. Working conditions were difficult and dangerous. Between the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and the D-Day Invasion of Europe in June 1944, there were more Home Front industrial casualties than military casualties. This would lead to improved work place safety and regulations, as well as better access to affordable health care. Child care was also a concern for many working women, as mothers comprised a significant portion of the work force, and this led to the establishment of child development centers and the professional field of early childhood development.

These working wartime women filled industrial jobs, like fastening rivets on aircraft and welding. They built the armor, ammunition, and other war supplies that powered the U.S. military to victory in Europe and Asia. They operated heavy cranes, milling machines, and other heavy tools that most women had never heard of before the war. Across the country, women stepped up, not only suppling the war effort, but also kept homes and farms running during the war years as well.

The CCAC was provided a phenomenal portfolio of obverse and reverse candidate designs to consider, twelve obverse and twelve reverse distinct candidate designs. Following a robust discussion that included the stakeholders who had been instrumental in collaborating with the staff of the United States Mint, the CCAC recommends obverse candidate **RR-O-01** and reverse candidate **RR-R-05**. This Committee felt strongly about the artistic merits of combining obverse **RR-O-01** with reverse **RR-R-05**.

1. Obverse candidate design **RR-O-01**, features five Rosies to represent the diversity of women in the war effort. They represent the wide variety of professions women stepped into during WWII. This design includes the inscriptions “ROSIE THE RIVETER,” “1942,” and “1945.” This design was preferred by one of the liaisons who participated in the discussion.
2. Reverse candidate design **RR-R-05** depicts silhouettes of a B-17 bomber, a Liberty ship, and an M4 tank against a background of sheet metal that has been riveted together with two wrenches atop. The additional inscriptions are “WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR VICTORY,” “1942,” and “1945.” This design was also preferred by one of the liaisons who participated in the discussion. Additionally, the CCAC recommended that the silhouette of the B-17 aircraft be amended to reflect either an E, F, or G model of the aircraft, that the Mint determines whether or not and where to include the inscription of “Act of Congress”, and that the Mint determines whether or not to include the hair net in the obverse design, worn by one of the women.

The CCAC recognizes the potential for the Mint to produce bronze replicas for the public of the Congressional Gold medal. As such, the combination of obverse **RR-O-01** with reverse **RR-R-05** would make this a desirable numismatic product of the bronze replicas of this Congressional Gold medal.

In summary, the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal continues the theme of the phenomenal role of women in the history of the United States as exemplified in recent commemorative coin programs (such as the Christa McAuliffe dollar) and the American Women’s Quarter program. On behalf of the CCAC, we are honored to continue to play a role in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of women in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence S. Brown, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Lawrence S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, DFASAM
CCAC Chair