



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

March 10, 2023

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 February 28, 2023, during which the CCAC reviewed candidate designs and made recommendations for the obverse and reverse of the Willie O’Ree Congressional Gold Medal. As background information regarding this program will accompany this letter, this communication provides the CCAC’s recommendations.

For this discussion of the five obverse and five reverse candidate designs, the CCAC was joined by Ms. Chandra O’Ree, daughter of Mr. O’Ree, and Mr. Rob Wooley, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, Public Policy & Partnership Development of the National Hockey League.

After a robust discussion, the CCAC recommended obverse **WOR-O-02** with a score of twenty-six points out of a maximum score of thirty. This design features a portrait of a mature Mr. O’Ree, wearing his trademark fedora hat with the Boston Bruins logo in the background. This design was also favored by the family and recommended by the US Commission on Fine Arts (CFA).

Reverse candidate design **WOR-R-01**, which depicts Mr. O’Ree scoring a goal while playing for the Boston Bruins, was recommended by the Committee with a score of twenty-nine points out of a maximum score of thirty. This design was favored by the family and recommended by the CFA. The CCAC recommended unanimously that the inscription on the reverse be changed to “hockey is for everyone” and that the design be modified to include removal of the team logo from all players except Mr. O’Ree to make it more generic with possibly modification of the hair at the discretion of the Mint’s Chief Engraver.

Given the challenges incurred by Mr. O’Ree while on and off the ice, I share with other members of the CCAC our pride in reviewing these designs as part of our role and participation in telling the history of this country through the artistry of coins and medals of the United States.

Sincerely,

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