



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

April 24, 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 April 18, 2023, during which the CCAC reviewed candidate designs and made recommendations for the obverse and reverse of the Congressional Gold Medal to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021. *Public Law 117-72* awards a Congressional Gold Medal to the servicemembers who perished during the evacuation of United States citizens and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport. As background information regarding this program will accompany this communication, this letter details the CCAC's recommendations.

The CCAC reviewed a portfolio of eight obverse candidate designs and the six reverse candidate designs presented by the United States Mint.

Following a robust discussion and congruent with the practice of supporting the preferences of liaisons for Congressional Gold Medal programs, the CCAC voted ten members in favor and one against to recommend obverse design **AUG26-O-06** and reverse design **AUG26-R-06**. Both of these designs are preferred by the primary liaisons.

AUG26-O-06 depicts five servicemembers in silhouette standing over a crowd of people waiting to board a C-17 with the mountains of Kabul in the background. There are 13 stars incused over their heads, representing the 13 fallen. **AUG26-R-06** features the names of the fallen servicemembers and an American flag surrounded by a wreath.

As a Vietnam US Army veteran, I fully embrace the decision to support the recommendations of the liaisons. This program reminds me of the inscriptions on the clad half dollar of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor program: "all gave some" on the obverse and "some gave all" on the reverse.

For this reason, a Congressional Gold Medal is an understandable next step after a Purple Heart to recognize their courage and the gratitude of a thankful nation. Accordingly, and on behalf of the CCAC, the CCAC is thankful for its participation in recommending designs of the sacrifices of Americans.

Sincerely,

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