

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee

801 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20220



November 30, 2020

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20220

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee held a public meeting via video conference on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, during which the Committee reviewed obverse and reverse candidate designs for the Dr. Christine Darden Congressional Gold Medal honoring her life and her contributions to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race. Dr. Darden began her career in aeronautics in 1967 as a data analyst at NASA's Langley Research Center and her work resulted in the production of low-boom sonic effects, which revolutionized aerodynamics design.

During its review, the CCAC heard from Dr. Darden herself on her thoughts of the designs. This was a rare privilege of the CCAC to have the actual Gold Medal recipient as part of the meeting to be able to discuss the designs, and the CCAC took this opportunity to have a lively discussion with Dr. Darden. The CCAC ended up recommending designs CD-O-24 for the medal obverse and CD-R-05 for the medal reverse.

- **Obverse CD-O-24**, depicts a portrait of Dr. Darden holding a model plan.
- **Reverse CD-R-05**, depicts Dr. Darden's guiding principles as an inscription, namely "PRECEIVE, PLAN, PREPARE, PRESIST." The stars symbolize her four decades of service at NASA, while the graph shows the sonic boom cone hitting the ground, explaining in visual form the mathematical formulas that describe the air pressures involved in Sonic Booms Minimization. Additional inscriptions read "SONIC BOOM MINIMIZATION LEADER AT NASA FOR 14 YEARS" and "DR. CHRISTINE DARDEN." We recommend that the inscription of Dr. Darden's guiding principles be removed from the reverse design, as it is already featured on the obverse, and replace it with "ACT OF CONGRESS 2019."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Uram', is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Thomas Uram
Chairman
Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee