

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee

801 Ninth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20220



June 29, 2021

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting via video conference on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, during which the CCAC made recommendations for the obverse and reverse designs for the Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal (*P.L. 116-170*).

The Merrill's Marauders significantly advanced the Allied Forces' effort to defeat Japan during World War II. Their success in the China Burma India (CBI) Theater during 1944 altered the course of the war in Asia. Travelling only with what they could carry on their backs or pack on mules, they made military history by walking almost 1,000 miles, farther than any WWII fighting force. They were kept alive by C-47 airdrops of ammunition, food, medical supplies, and grain for the mules.

The CCAC had the pleasure of hosting the following liaisons: Mr. John Passanisi, son of Merrill's Marauder, Mr. Robert Passanisi; Mr. Robert Howland, son of Merrill's Marauder, Mr. Gilbert Howland; and Mr. Travis James West, President, U.S. Army Ranger Association.

The CCAC recommends MM-R-11 and MM-O-05C; however, based on the artist's designs and the back stories of the liaisons, the CCAC unanimously recommends switching the obverse and reverse designs as recommendations. Thus, the CCAC recommends MM-R-11 as the obverse design and MM-O-05C as the reverse design. The designs garnered scores of 16 points and 23 points, respectively, out of a possible 30 points. The obverse design displays a group of Merrill's Marauders crossing a river in Burma, with the foreground muleskinner leading a pack mule. The reverse design depicts the Merrill's Marauders patch positioned just below a Bronze Star, an award every member of the unit received for their bravery. The Burmese mountains and jungle appear in the background, and the Marauders' five key battles circumscribe the rim of the design. The designs also include the inscription "DEEP BEHIND ENEMY LINES" and the Combat Infantry Badge.

The CCAC unanimously approved two additional recommendations. The first, intended for MM-R-11, is to add the inscription "5307th COMPOSITE UNIT PROVISIONAL" in an arc

underneath the inscription “MERRILL’S MARAUDERS.” The second, intended for MM-O-05C, is to add a C-47 supply plane and parachutes to the design.

The CCAC was honored to work with exceptional heroes from the Merrill’s Marauders squad and their family members.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary N. Lannin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mary N. Lannin
Chairperson