



CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

801 9TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20220

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Mister Secretary:

The Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (CCAC) held a public meeting on July 22, 2025, during which we reviewed the candidate designs for Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Public Law 118-161, the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023, awards Alvarez the Medal in recognition of his service to the Nation. Born December 23, 1937, he is a distinguished Naval officer, attorney, author, entrepreneur, and former government executive who is best known to the public as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. He was taken prisoner on August 5, 1964, and held in North Vietnam as a prisoner of war (POW) for eight years and six months until the general release of American POWs on February 12, 1973. Following his release and hospitalization, Alvarez resumed his Naval service and retired as a Navy Commander on June 30, 1980, completing a 20-year Naval career. Alvarez' post-Naval career included earning a law degree and serving multiple presidential appointments, along with many awards, medals, and honors. The Medal ensures that Alvarez' legacy and the sacrifices of POWs and their families are forever remembered.

Commander Alvarez was present at the July 22 meeting during which he expressed his preference for candidate designs **ALVA-O-2B** and **ALVA-R-5A**. Subsequently, the CCAC voted unanimously to recommend these two designs, but with the additional recommendation that the inscription "4" on **ALVA-R-5A** design be reduced in size.

It is an honor to serve as the Chair of the CCAC and I am proud of the CCAC's role in the production of United States coins and medals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter van Alfen
Chairperson
Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee