

2027 Native American \$1 Coin Program Design Descriptions

Background

Every year since 2009, in accordance with the Native American \$1 Coin Act (Public Law 110-82) (codified at 31 U.S.C §5112 (r)), the United States Mint mints and issues golden-hued \$1 coins that honor Native Americans and celebrate the important contributions made by Indian tribes and individual Native Americans to the development and history of the United States. The obverse of the coins retains the depiction of Sacagawea and her infant son, first used in 2000 on the Sacagawea Golden Dollar Coin. In 2027, the reverse will honor Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte.

Theme

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte (1865–1915) of the Omaha Tribe is widely acknowledged as the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree. She provided medical care for the people she lived with on the Omaha reservation and built the first privately funded hospital on an Indian reservation.

Picotte was born into the Omaha Tribe on their reservation in the remote Nebraska Territory where she grew up learning the customs, language, dances, and song of the Omaha. She observed the nearly impossible access the Omaha had to adequate medical care; as a child, she witnessed a sick, elderly Omaha woman die when the local doctor was called upon several times but never came. This moment defined her motivation to become a doctor not only for the Omaha, but also for all people who needed her help.

In 1889, at a time in U.S. history when it was rare for women, and unheard of for Indian women, to receive formal medical training, Picotte graduated at the top of her class from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania with a medical degree. Later that year, Picotte returned to the Omaha reservation and began working as a physician.

Picotte worked exhaustive hours, often traveling vast distances on horseback or by horse and buggy to treat critically ill patients and frequently stayed overnight to cook and care for patients who might have passed alone without her. In her lifetime, Picotte tirelessly and selflessly covered over 1,350 square miles of open prairie and treated over 1,240 patients.

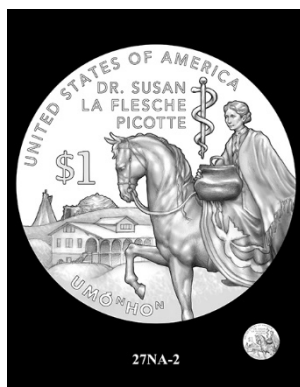
In 1913, Picotte realized a long-held dream to build a hospital on the Omaha reservation so that her patients did not have to travel to distant cities for surgery. Though Picotte passed away in 1915, the Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Memorial Hospital carried on its mission until 1944, before serving in other capacities. The hospital was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1993. On June 14, 2025, it was dedicated as the Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center, where the Omaha community will learn, celebrate culture, pursue opportunities, and obtain vital health and social services.

Designs

All candidate designs feature the inscriptions “DR. SUSAN LA FLESCHE PICOTTE,” “UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,” and “\$1.” Several designs feature the Omaha words “UMÓ^NHO^N” or “UMÓ^NHO^N WAZETHA,” which mean “Omaha” and “Doctor.”



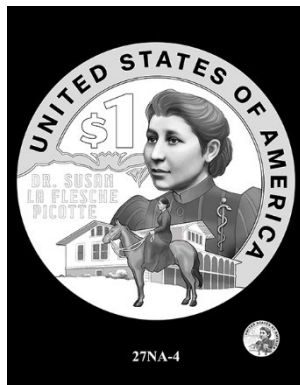
27NA-1 depicts Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte, medical bag beside her, caring for an elderly Omaha woman who is covered with an Omaha-patterned blanket. Picotte’s desire to pursue medicine began when she witnessed an elderly Omaha woman die without medical care.



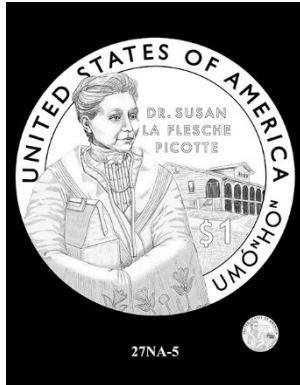
27NA-2 portrays Picotte wearing an Omaha-patterned garment, on horseback, holding her medical bag as she travels to care for her patients. Indicating her life in two worlds, the background shows a teepee, an earthen lodge, and the hospital she built. The Rod of Asclepius is included as an international symbol of medicine. Four hills define the landscape, serving as a reference to the “Four Hills of Life”—an indigenous metaphor for the stages of life from infancy to old age—all stages that Picotte provided care for.



27NA-3 and **27NA-3A** depict Picotte holding her stethoscope as she prepares to listen to a patient’s vital signs. The inscription “AGAINST THE CURRENT” is both a translation of the word “Omaha” and a reference to Picotte’s grit and determination to become a doctor. The shining sun is included as a symbol of hope. In **27NA-3**, four hills define the horizon line, while in **27NA-3A**, the Rod of Asclepius is included as an international symbol of medicine.



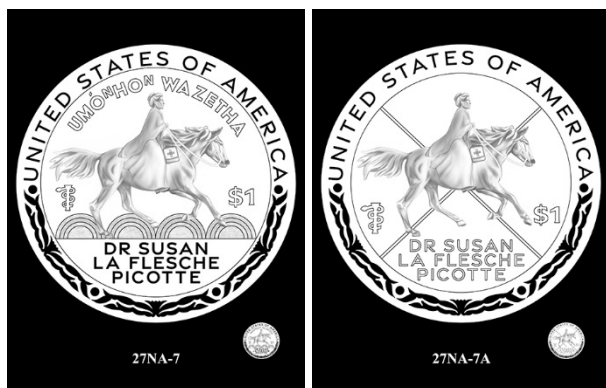
27NA-4 features Picotte wearing the Rod of Asclepius as a reference to medicine. In the foreground, she appears on her horse with the hospital behind her. The border includes an Omaha applique pattern.



27NA-5 portrays Picotte wearing an Omaha garment with an appliqué pattern and a stethoscope as she holds her medical bag. In the background is her hospital.



27NA-6 features Picotte wearing a stethoscope and an Omaha garment, holding a model of her hospital. On her collar is a lilac—flowers she included in her vision of her hospital.



27NA-7 and **27NA-7A** show Picotte on horseback carrying medicine, with an Omaha pattern depicted in the border. On the left, a Rod of Asclepius symbolizes medicine. **27NA-7** includes a reference to the “Four Hills of Life,” whose shape is derived from a pattern shown on a dress she wore at her graduation from the Hampton Institute, which she attended leading up to medical school. **27NA-7A** features a background divided into four sections representing the “Four Winds” or “Four Directions,” a significant symbolic and spiritual concept for the Omaha.



27NA-8, **27NA-8A**, and **27NA-8B** depict Picotte wearing a stethoscope and holding her medical bag. In **27NA-8** and **27NA-8A**, she is depicted with her hospital. In **27NA-8B**, she is superimposed over an outline of the Omaha reservation. The background consists of lilacs—flowers she included in her vision for the hospital.