

Shirley Chisholm Congressional Gold Medal Design Descriptions

Public Law 118-150 posthumously awards a Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm in recognition of her activism, independence, and groundbreaking achievements in politics; her election as the first African American woman in Congress; and her campaign to be the first African American to gain the nomination of a major political party for President of the United States.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 30, 1924, Shirley Anita St. Hill was the oldest of four daughters to immigrant parents Charles St. Hill, a factory worker from Guyana, and Ruby Seale St. Hill, a seamstress from Barbados. She graduated from Brooklyn Girls' High in 1942 and cum laude from Brooklyn College in 1946. Although professors encouraged her to consider a political career, she replied that she faced a double handicap, being both Black and female.

Chisholm worked in education and social services before being elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964, becoming the second African American in the New York State Legislature. In 1969, Chisholm began her service in the 91st Congress, representing Brooklyn's 12th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. "Fighting Shirley," as she was called, introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation; promoted the employment of women in Congress; and was vocal in her support of civil rights, women's rights, and the poor, while fervently opposing the Vietnam War.

Chisholm also played a significant role in creating the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, more commonly known as WIC. In 1969, the White House hosted its first conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. A recommendation from Chisholm and Senator Bob Dole led the U.S. Department of Agriculture to pilot a program providing supplemental food assistance for pregnant women, their infants, and young children. In 1972, while serving on the House Education and Labor Committee during her second term in Congress, Chisholm passed an amendment to the Child Nutrition Act establishing WIC as a two-year pilot program, which was then made permanent in 1975.

In 1972, Chisholm became the first African American to seek the nomination of a major party for President of the United States with the slogan "Unbought and Unbossed." However, she faced discrimination and many roadblocks. Despite those obstacles, many people, including students and marginalized groups, followed the "Chisholm Trail." She entered 12 primaries and garnered 152 of the delegates' votes (10% of the total) despite an under-financed campaign and friction from the predominantly male Congressional Black Caucus.

Chisholm eventually retired from Congress in 1983 and taught at Mount Holyoke College. Throughout her prolific life, Chisholm also co-founded the National Political Congress of Black Women, the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and in 1977, became the first Black woman and second woman ever to serve on the House Rules Committee.

Of her legacy, Chisholm said, “I want to be remembered as a woman who dared to be a catalyst of change.” A significant figure in American political history, Chisholm died at the age of 80 in Ormond Beach, Florida, on New Year’s Day 2005.

Common inscriptions include:

- “SHIRLEY ANITA CHISHOLM”
- “ACT OF CONGRESS 2024”

Obverse Designs

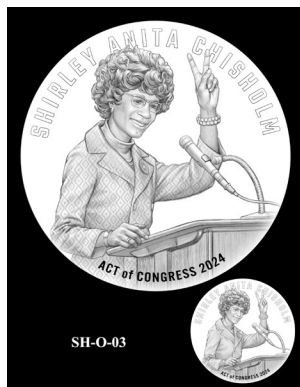


SH-O-01 and **SH-O-01A** feature portraits of Chisholm with her signature charming smile and bright personality. The dress’ geometric and floral-like pattern is a nod to Chisholm’s impeccable sense of style. Her earring, shaped like a lotus flower, symbolizes strength, resilience, and rebirth. The additional inscription is “I AM A CATALYST FOR CHANGE. FIRST BLACK WOMAN ELECTED TO CONGRESS.” Design **SH-O-01A** echoes the dress’ geometric floral pattern in the background. The additional inscription is, “I AM, AND ALWAYS WILL BE A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.”

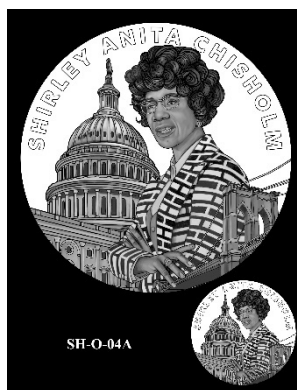
SH-O-01 is the liaison’s preferred design.



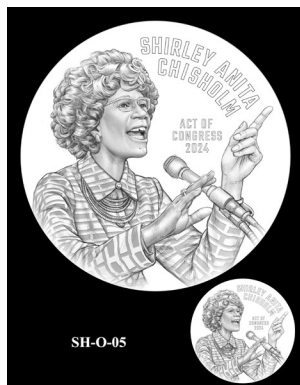
SH-O-02 depicts Chisholm with a thoughtful and confident expression.



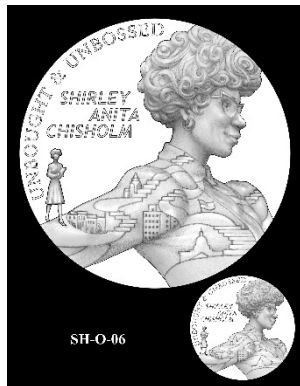
SH-O-03 shows Chisholm behind a podium making a peace sign, a symbol that became a signature gesture during her presidential campaign.



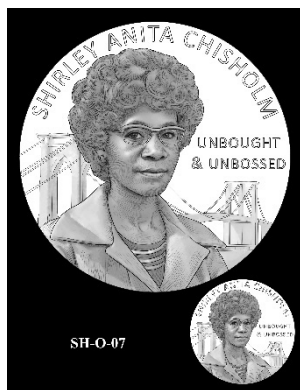
SH-O-04 and **SH-O-04A** portray Chisholm with the Brooklyn Bridge and U.S. Capitol Building in the background, connecting the two locations she spent the majority of her life and career. Design **SH-O-04** features a mother and child as a nod to her role in creating the WIC program.



SH-O-05 presents a portrait of Chisholm speaking passionately into a microphone.

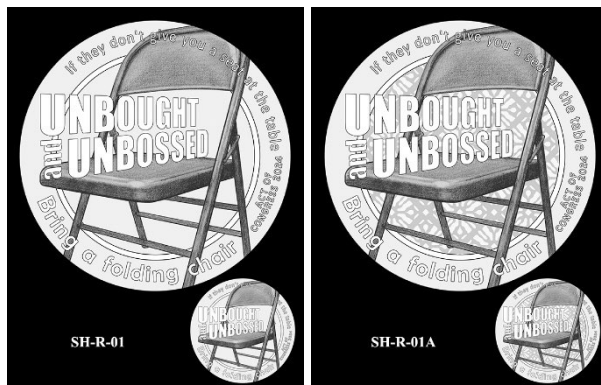


SH-O-06 showcases Chisholm wearing a textile motif that illustrates her journey as she embarks on "The Chisholm Trail." The trail follows her Congressional district in Brooklyn, New York, her role in establishing WIC, her run for president, and her prolific career in Congress. The additional inscription is "UNBOUGHT & UNBOSSSED," Chisholm's presidential campaign slogan.



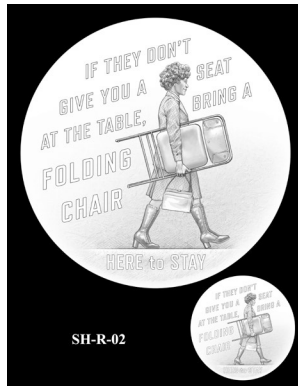
SH-O-07 captures Chisholm in front of the Brooklyn Bridge, representing her service to her constituency. The additional inscription is "UNBOUGHT & UNBOSSSED."

Reverse Designs



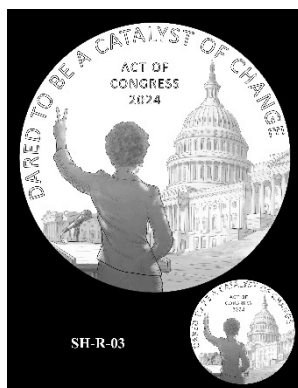
SH-R-01 and **SH-R-01A** feature a folding chair along with the additional inscriptions, "UNBOUGHT AND UNBOSSSED" and "IF THEY DON'T GIVE YOU A SEAT AT THE

TABLE, BRING A FOLDING CHAIR.” Design **SH-R-01A** features a geometric pattern in the background.

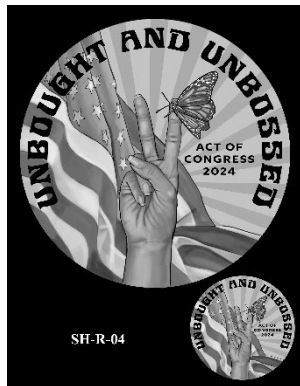


SH-R-02 captures Chisholm in motion, carrying a metal folding chair under her arm, surrounded by one of her most well known quotes, “IF THEY DON’T GIVE YOU A SEAT AT THE TABLE, BRING A FOLDING CHAIR.” She brought her own chair to create an immovable seat at the table of opportunity for future generations. The additional inscription, “HERE TO STAY,” highlights that progress.

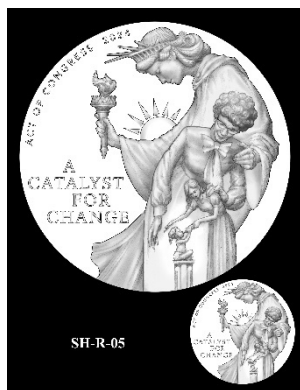
SH-R-02 is the liaison’s preferred design.



SH-R-03 highlights Chisholm facing the Capitol Building as she addresses a crowd with a hand raised in a peace sign, a gesture she often made at campaign events. The additional inscription is “DARED TO BE A CATALYST OF CHANGE.”



SH-R-04 displays a hand making a peace sign, while a butterfly rests on its finger. An American flag is in the background. This composition symbolizes transformation, hope, and the enduring spirit of freedom represented by Chisholm’s presidential campaign slogan, “UNBOUGHT AND UNBOSSSED.”



SH-R-05 is an illustration of Chisholm’s legacy of a mother nurturing her child, guided by Chisholm, as Liberty watches over them. The additional inscription is “A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.”