



# FIRST SPOUSE SERIES

ONE-HALF OUNCE PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED COINS

## HIGHLY COLLECTABLE SERIES

American First Ladies are now honored with First Spouse Gold Coins, which are one-half ounce, 24 karat pure gold coins minted in collector proof and uncirculated versions. This series of gold coins introduced in 2007 and set to last until 2016 compliment and are released on the same schedule as the US Mint Presidential \$1 program which honors past Presidents at a rate of four gold coins each year.



## THE FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COINS PROGRAM

The program is the first to feature women in a consecutive series of legal tender coins. The series of gold coins is authorized through the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005, which was signed into law (Public Law 109-145) on Dec. 22, 2005 by President George Bush. It calls for the following coin specifications:

- A \$10 denomination
- The same diameter as the \$1 coins
- Issued as counterparts and during the same period as the circulating Presidential \$1 coins

There are two cases where a President has had more than one wife during service and two coins are issued, like John Tyler. Tyler's first wife Letitia died during his second year in office. Tyler later married Julia while still President. Under the program, both Letitia and Julia First Spouse Coins were produced.



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# JULIA TYLER 2009



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## JULIA TYLER FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COIN *FIRST LADY, 1844–1845*

For 2009, a total of five different coins were released. This is a change from prior years of the program which have featured four coins. The issuance of five coins is to provide a separate coin for John Tyler's first and second wives.

The young and vivacious Julia Gardiner Tyler took Washington by storm with her wedding to widower President John Tyler on June 26, 1844. Although she was First Lady for only eight months, she quickly made her mark. James Sanderson's song "Hail to the Chief" had previously been played in various settings to honor American Presidents, but Julia Tyler was the first presidential spouse to request that it be played specifically to announce the President's arrival on official occasions. It's a tradition that continues to this day.

Julia Tyler worked hard to support her husband's political agenda, especially for the annexation of Texas. Julia used her considerable charm to persuade Members of Congress, a Supreme Court justice and cabinet members to support the cause. After Congress voted in favor of annexation and the President signed the resolution, he handed the gold pen he used to Julia in honor of her efforts. She proudly attached the pen to her necklace and wore it on formal occasions afterwards.

Julia Tyler introduced the polka at a White House social event, making it a national craze. The reverse depicts President and Mrs. Tyler together at a White House Ball.

## COIN SPECIFICATIONS

Designer: Joel Iskowitz (obverse & reverse)

Sculptor: Don Everhart (obverse & reverse)

Date: 2009

Mint: West Point (W mint mark)

Weight: 0.5000 troy oz. (15.554 g)

Composition: 0.9999 fine gold

Diameter: 1.041 inches (26.49 mm)

Thickness: 0.074 inches (1.88 mm)