



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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ALICE PAUL 2012



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ALICE PAUL AND THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT GOLD COIN *ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT CHESTER ARTHUR, 1881–1885*

These Alice Paul coins are unique in the series because they are the first and only coins of the program to not feature either a spouse of a former President of the United States or the image of Liberty.

When the US Congress passed the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-145), which authorized the First Spouse Gold Coins, it made provisions for those Presidents who served in office without a spouse. Typically, in these instances, a likeness of Liberty was to be featured on the First Spouse Gold Coins issued in association with that President. This format was followed for previous releases including Thomas Jefferson's Liberty, Andrew Jackson's Liberty, Martin Van Buren's Liberty and James Buchanan's Liberty Coins.

However, when it came to the administration of former President Chester Arthur whose wife died before he entered office, Congress made other allowances. In this single instance, it required the US Mint to strike and release a coin honoring early 20th century American Suffragist Alice Paul.

The exact text of the corresponding section of the authorizing Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 follows:

“As represented, in the case of President Chester Alan Arthur, by a design incorporating the name and likeness of Alice Paul, a leading strategist in the suffrage movement, who was instrumental in gaining women the right to vote upon the adoption of the 19th amendment and thus the ability to participate in the election of future Presidents, and who was born on January 11, 1885, during the term of President Arthur.”

COIN SPECIFICATIONS

Designer: Barbara Fox (obverse), Michael Gaudio (reverse)

Sculptor: Phebe Hemphill (obverse), Michael Gaudio (reverse)

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)