

ONE-HALF OUNCE PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED COINS

#### **HIGHLY COLLECTABLE SERIES**

DOLL

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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# **JANE PIERCE 2010**



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## JANE PIERCE FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COIN *FIRST LADY, 1852–1857*

Marking the fifteenth issue in a series that started in 2007 is the Jane Pierce First Spouse Gold Coin. Struck from 1/2 ounce of 24 karat (.9999 fine) gold, these coins honor the former first ladies of the United States and were launched on June 3, 2010.

The daughter of a devout Congregationalist minister, Jane Appleton Pierce was born on March 12, 1806, in Hampton, N.H. Her father later moved the family to Brunswick, Maine, when he became president of Bowdoin College, her future alma mater. Bowdoin College was also where Jane met her future husband, Franklin Pierce. They married in 1834, eight years after they first met.

Two years into her husband's presidency, Jane Pierce emerged from an extended period of mourning after the death of her son. She began to attend receptions and dinner parties, and even organized a few of her own. After President Pierce left office, the couple sailed the Caribbean on board the U.S.S. Powhatan, a government ship loaned to them by his successor, President James Buchanan.

The reverse depicts Mrs. Pierce listening to debates in the visitor's gallery of the Old Senate Chamber in the U.S. Capitol Building. By 1856, she was venturing out in Washington, regularly visiting the U.S. Capitol Building, where she sat in the Senate visitor's gallery listening to heated debates over the issue of slavery.

#### **COIN SPECIFICATIONS**

Designer: Donna Weaver (obverse & reverse) Sculptor: Don Everhart (obverse), Charles Vickers (reverse) Date: 2010 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)