



# 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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# LUCRETIA GARFIELD 2011



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## LUCRETIA GARFIELD FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COIN *FIRST LADY, 1844–1845*

The final release of the year for the 24 karat gold coin series honoring the First Ladies will be the Lucretia Garfield First Spouse Gold Coin.

Lucretia Rudolph Garfield was born on April 19, 1832, in Garrettsville, Ohio. She first met future President “Jim” Garfield when both attended a nearby school, and they renewed their friendship in 1851 as students at the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute. The couple married in 1858.

During the 1880 presidential campaign, James Garfield campaigned from the front porch of Lawnfield, the couple's summer home in Ohio. Voters came from throughout the country to hear him speak, and Mrs. Garfield was the consummate hostess. In one corner of the property, there was a campaign office equipped with telegraph facilities to receive election returns. She was among the first presidential candidate's wives to appear on a campaign poster.

The Garfield family arrived at the White House in March 1881. Just two months later, the new first lady became seriously ill with malaria and went to a New Jersey coastal resort to recover. She was there when President Garfield was shot and mortally wounded on July 2.

Mrs. Garfield's dignity and strength over the next three months gained her wide admiration and sympathy. After the President's death in September 1881, the family returned to its Ohio farm. She lived for another 36 years and helped preserve her husband's records.

## COIN SPECIFICATIONS

Designer: Barbara Fox (obverse), Michael Gaudio (reverse)  
Sculptor: Phebe Hemphill (obverse), Michael Gaudio (reverse)  
Date: 2011  
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)