

# 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 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.







One Victory Plaza | 25222 Glen Loch | The Woodlands, TX 77380 Toll Free (866) 358-0920 | www.GlobalMonetaryReserve.com

# **MARGARET TAYLOR 2009**





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### MARGARET TAYLOR FIRST SPOUSE GOLD COIN FIRST LADY, 1849–1850

TheMargaret Taylor First Spouse Gold Coinwas released during 2009 as the thirteenth release of the First Spouse Gold Coin Program. During 2009 a total of five different coins will be issued for the series. These coins are struck from 1/2 ounce of 24 karat gold with a face value of \$10 and are offered in collector proof and uncirculated condition.

Zachary Taylor once commented that Margaret "Peggy" Mackall Smith Taylor "was as much of a soldier as I was." For 30 years, she followed her husband during his military career to remote hardship outposts that stretched from Louisiana to northern Wisconsin, creating homes for her family in tents, cabins and forts.

After many years of living a nomadic Army life, Margaret Taylor was happy to finally have a permanent home in a renovated "Spanish cottage" in Baton Rouge. The Army, however, soon had other plans for Zachary Taylor, calling upon him to serve in the Mexican-American War, from which he emerged as a national hero. When he became President, Margaret turned all official White House hostess duties over to their daughter, Betty Bliss. She lived life just as she would have back in Baton Rouge, with informal family gatherings and visits by her grandchildren.

During the Seminole War, Margaret Taylor nursed wounded soldiers returning from the battlefield and counseled the young wives of soldiers as they awaited news from the front. The reverse depicts Margaret Taylor comforting an injured soldier during that war.

#### **COIN SPECIFICATIONS**

Designer: Phebe Hemphill (obverse), Mary Beth Zeitz (reverse) Sculptor: Charles Vickers (obverse), Jim Licaretz (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)