



# UNITED STATES MINT NEWS & VIEWS

DAVID A. LEBRYK, ACTING DIRECTOR

JANUARY 2006

## NEVADA QUARTER HONORS NATION'S WILD HORSES



The first coin of 2006 in the United States Mint's popular 50 State Quarters® Program will be released to the public in a ceremony at the State Capitol in

Carson City on Tuesday, January 31, 2006.

Nevada, nicknamed the "Silver State," was admitted into the Union on October 31, 1864, becoming our Nation's 36th state. Nevada's quarter depicts a trio of wild mustangs, the sun rising behind snow-capped mountains, bordered by sagebrush and a banner that reads "The Silver State." The coin also bears the inscriptions "Nevada" and "1864."

Nevada became a territory in 1861, several years after a Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War discovered gold and silver in the area of Virginia City. This discovery would later be referred to as one of the greatest mineral discoveries, famously known as the Comstock Lode.

Free United States Mint lesson plans about the Nevada quarter may be downloaded at [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov). Prior to the launch, the United States Mint hosted a Coin Collectors Forum in Reno, Nevada, featuring United States Mint Acting Director Lebryk. The public was invited to tell the United States Mint what they'd like to see on their coins.

## 2005 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SCORES RELEASED

For the seventh straight year, the United States Mint scored among the highest performers in the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) for 2005, according to the National Quality Research Center (NRQC) at the University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business.

The United States Mint's 2005 customer satisfaction score of 88% was up 2.3% from 2004 on the ACSI's 100-point index and

significantly exceeds both the government sector (71.3%) and private sector (71.5%) averages. A score of 80% or more is considered world class customer service.

"Our customers expect high product quality and great service. We strive to exceed their expectations," said United States Mint Acting Director David Lebryk.

The result was a banner year for the United States Mint with record sales, unique numismatic products and innovative circulating coin designs.

## AMERICAN EAGLE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

In 1985, Congress authorized the United States Mint to produce the first gold bullion investment coins in our Nation's history. American Eagles were introduced to give investors of gold or silver worldwide the opportunity to buy bullion coins backed by the United States government, and to offer investors a simple means of owning gold and silver. American Eagles, struck in 22-karat gold and .999 fine silver, were first sold to the public in 1986. Today, American Eagle Gold investment quality coins still bear the timeless "Liberty" design originally created by renowned sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens for American gold coins issued in 1907. This year also marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Silver Eagle, which has featured the "Walking Liberty" design originally crafted for the United States Mint by a protégé of Saint-Gaudens, Adolph A. Weinman. Each year, the one-ounce proof Silver Eagles are among the United States Mint's best selling numismatic products. A special 20-year American Eagle collectible set will be released later in 2006.



## NICKEL RETURNS TO MONTICELLO FOR 2006



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The obverse of the 2006 nickel, the fifth and final coin in the Westward Journey Nickel Series™, is based on a portrait of Thomas Jefferson completed by Rembrandt

Peale in 1800.

The United States Mint's Artistic Infusion Program Master Designer Jamie Franki designed the obverse.

The cursive "Liberty" inscription, which debuted on the 2005 nickels, is again presented in Jefferson's own handwriting. The obverse was engraved by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Donna Weaver.

The reverse of the 2006 nickel features the classic, familiar rendition of Monticello, President Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home, originally executed by artist Felix Schlag and chosen to adorn the coin's reverse in 1938.

However, the design will be crisper and more detailed than Americans have seen it in recent years, having been carefully restored by the United States Mint, using Schlag's original work.

## NEW LESSON PLANS FOR 2006

Created and reviewed by teachers, these plans are designed to help inspire students to learn about the History In their Pockets—along with social studies, math, science, language arts, and art—all through the fascinating yet familiar world of American coins. For each new quarter released, the United States Mint has created a new set of plans for grades K–6. For each year of this popular coin series, the United States Mint has also



released lessons for teachers in grades 7–12 as well as a resource guide for teachers of all grades. These lesson plans, like the new coins themselves, are designed to expand students' knowledge about the states that make up our great Nation.

## SALES BEGIN FOR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN COINS



Coinciding with the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, the United States Mint began accepting orders on January 17, 2006, for the Benjamin Franklin

Commemorative Coin Program.

This program includes two silver dollars; the *Scientist* coin which recreates on its obverse a rendition of Franklin and his legendary kite experiment. This coin's reverse features a recreation of Franklin's "Join, or Die" political cartoon, first published in the Pennsylvania Gazette in 1754.



The second coin, *Founding Father*, features a familiar image of Franklin in his later years and is based on a bust by Jean-Antoine Houdon. The reverse

of the second coin features a replica of the 1776 Continental Currency dollar in honor of his contributions to the early development of our Nation's coinage.

The Franklin coins will each be featured in a limited-edition collectible set. The first of these sets, on sale now, is the Benjamin Franklin Coin & Chronicles Set, which features an uncirculated *Scientist* coin, a reproduction of *Poor Richard's Almanack*, four stamps honoring Franklin and an intaglio print recognizing his contribution to the drafting of the Declaration of Independence.