

Wye Trust
 16 N Washington Street
 Easton, MD 21601
 Office 410.763.8543
 info@wyefinancial.com
 www.wyetrust.com



American Women Quarters

Have you noticed any of the new quarters that were put into circulation this year? Beginning in 2022 and continuing through 2025, the U.S. Mint is issuing up to five quarters each year that celebrate the accomplishments and contributions made by women of the United States. Authorized by Public Law 116-330, this four-year program features coins with reverse (tails) designs emblematic of the accomplishments and contributions of trailblazing American women. The obverse will still depict George Washington, but with a new design with Washington facing right.

The Secretary of the Treasury selects the honorees following consultation with the Smithsonian Institution’s American Women’s History Initiative, the National Women’s History Museum, and the Congressional Bipartisan Women’s Caucus. In 2021, the public was invited to submit recommendations for potential honorees through a web portal established by the National Women’s History Museum; more than 11,000 recommendations were submitted for consideration. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen selected the final designs for the 2022 and 2023 coins in accordance with the design selection process. All reverse designs were created by United States Mint Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) Designers and sculpted by United States Mint Medallist Artists.

Below is a list of the women being honored in 2022 and 2023 in the sequence of the coins released. So far honorees for 2024 and 2025 have not been announced.

2022

Maya Angelou. Born April 4, 1928, St. Louis, MO – Celebrated writer, performer, and social activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, and several books of poetry. Released January 3, 2022.

Dr. Sally Ride. Born May 26, 1951, Encino, Los Angeles, CA – Physicist, astronaut, educator, and the first American woman in space. Released March 22, 2022.

Wilma Mankiller. Born November 18, 1945, Tahlequah, OK – Native American activist, social worker, community developer, and first woman elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. Released June 6, 2022.

Nina Otero-Warren. Born October 23, 1881, Los Lunas, NM – A leader in New Mexico’s suffrage movement and the first woman superintendent of Santa Fe public schools. Released August 15, 2022.

Anna May Wong. Born January 3, 1905, Los Angeles, CA – First Chinese American film star in Hollywood, as well as the first Chinese American actress to gain international recognition. Released October 25, 2022.

2023

Bessie Coleman. Born January 26, 1892, Atlanta, TX – First African American and first Native American woman to hold a pilot license.

Edith Kanaka’ole. Born October 30, 1913, Honouliuli, HI – Indigenous Hawaiian composer, custodian of native culture and traditions.

Eleanor Roosevelt. Born October 11, 1884, New York, NY – First lady, author, and civil liberties advocate. She served as the first lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945.

Jovita Idár. Born September 7, 1885, Laredo, TX – Mexican-American journalist, activist, teacher, and suffragist who championed the cause of Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants.

Maria Tallchief. Born January 24, 1925, Fairfax, OK – America’s first prima ballerina. She was the first Native American to hold the rank, and is said to have revolutionized ballet.

Look for the quarters in the change in your pockets or you can order coins from the U.S. Mint at <https://catalog.usmint.gov/+coins/coin-programs/american-women-quarters-program/>

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