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The Marine Corps Heritage Center Story

Legacy

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THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE CENTER IS TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE ALL MARINES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CAN COME TO VIEW THE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES.



COMMEMORATIVE COIN HONORING 230th ANNIVERSARY OF MARINE CORPS TO BE RELEASED JULY 20



The United States Mint will unveil a special commemorative coin marking the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps on July 20, 2005. A ceremonial first striking of the new commemorative coin was recently conducted at the Philadelphia Mint. According to the Mint, "This year, the United States proudly honors the Marine Corps and all Marines who have sacrificed and contributed in our Nation's service. Public Law 108-291, signed August 6, 2004, authorizes the minting of a Silver Dollar to commemorate the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps."

The Mint annually issues two commemorative coins to celebrate and honor American people, places, events or institutions. The issuance of the Marine Corps coin marks the first time the Mint has honored a branch of the United States military.

Commemorative coins are United States legal tender, backed by the government for weight and metallurgic content. However, such coins are generally produced as uncirculated collectibles and are in great demand by numismatists and other collectors. The coin will be available for purchase beginning at noon on July 20. Legacy readers who wish to purchase the coin (see sidebar) are urged to act quickly to avoid disappointment.

As revealed in the illustrations above, the obverse of the Marine Corps coin features a rendition of Joe Rosenthal's iconic photograph showing the raising of an American flag by Marines atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. Taken on February 23, 1945, it is believed to be the most reproduced image in the history of photography.

The coin's reverse features an engraving of the Marine Corps emblem, the Eagle,

Globe and Anchor. The current emblem remains virtually unchanged since 1868 when the design was recommended by then-Commandant, Brigadier General Jacob Zeilin.

The authorizing legislation for a commemorative coin nominates an organization that will benefit from part of the proceeds of the coin's sales revenues. For the Marine Corps coin, the beneficiary of the so-called "surcharge" of \$10 per coin is the National Museum of the Marine Corps. With a maximum mintage of 600,000 coins, up to \$6 million may be generated toward construction of the National Museum, now underway at Quantico.

A special ceremony will be held on July 20 at Marine Corps Base Quantico at which the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Silver Dollar will be unveiled. Invited guests include United States Mint Director Henrietta Holsman Fore; Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps General William L. "Spider" Nyland, USMC; members of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Founders' Group and Board of Directors; and other dignitaries. Legacy readers in the mid-Atlantic region already have been sent invitations to the event.

"We are honored to be the first military service to receive a commemorative coin issued by the United States Mint. And we are particularly pleased that proceeds from this coin will help build the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico," said Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps General Nyland. "I can think of no better way to honor our Marine men and women than to capture the proud history and heritage of the Marine Corps in a museum that will forever educate visitors from around the world about the role the Marines have played throughout world history, and will continue to play in the future." ★

HOW TO PURCHASE THE COIN

The Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Silver Dollar goes on sale at noon on July 20, 2005.

Even with a mintage of 600,000 coins, the coin is expected to sell out quickly. Beyond the Marine Corps community, commemorative coins are always in great demand among numismatists and other collectors. Further, the authorizing legislation for the coins requires that they only be sold during their year of issue, i.e., sales must end by the end of 2005.

Accordingly, Legacy readers who wish to purchase the coin should act quickly to avoid disappointment. Below is information about coin pricing and how it can be purchased:

COIN OPTIONS

- Silver Dollar Proof in presentation case: pre-issue*, \$35; retail, \$39.
- Silver Dollar Uncirculated in gift box: pre-issue*, \$33; retail, \$35.
- A limited edition product also is in development.

* The "pre-issue" period refers to the first 30 days of sales.

HOW TO PURCHASE

Website: www.usmint.gov
(click on "Buy Online," then on "Commemoratives")

Phone: Call 1-800-USA-MINT

Mail: United States Mint
Customer Care Center
801 9th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20220

www.marineheritage.org

703-640-7965



This recent photograph shows the “main mast” and canopy of the National Museum under construction. Worksites vehicles provide a sense of the large scale of the new building.

NATIONAL MUSEUM BEGINS TO TRANSITION FROM VISION TO REALITY

Construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps is proceeding smoothly. As revealed in the photograph above, architect Curtis Fentress’ evocative design is moving ever closer to reality. The Museum building is already becoming a notable landmark for the thousands of drivers who transit the site on nearby Interstate 95. Here are specific details of construction progress:

- The concrete shell of the building has been poured. Some 17,000 cubic yards of concrete were used in creating the foundation and the building shell.
- The 210-foot tall “main mast” of the building was raised in March 2005. For comparison, the apex of the National Museum now stands some 28 feet taller than the pinnacle of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The angled stainless steel beam, evoking Joe Rosenthal’s iconic photograph of the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima, is perhaps the central design feature of the structure.
- With the mast in place, the steel and glass canopy is now being built. The canopy sits atop

the Central Atrium of the Museum, the largest public space in the building.

- Before the canopy is completed, several large exhibit items such as airplanes, tanks and landing craft will be moved into the building. These so-called “macro artifacts” are integral parts of the Museum exhibitry.
- External construction of the Museum building structure is expected to conclude by December 2005, subject to weather and other contingencies. Once the structure is completed, the construction focus will shift to fitting out the interior and to initiating fabrication of the Museum’s sophisticated exhibit plan.

“We are pleased with construction progress, and the promise of the design concept becomes more evident every day,” said BGen Gerald L. McKay, chief operating officer of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. “None of this would be possible without the incredibly generous support of the Marine community, most notably our Charter Sponsors, all of whom I would like to thank.” ★



Project Notes

- *Legacy* readers and other project supporters recently received an invitation to participate in an engraved bricks program. The bricks, which memorialize comrades or family, will be placed on walkways leading from the National Museum to Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. We are pleased to report an overwhelming response to the initial invitation, with almost 2,700 bricks having been reserved to date.
- We draw the attention of *Legacy* readers to the availability of a large selection of Marine-themed merchandise, including memorabilia, apparel, books and accessories, at the Foundation’s Online Gift Shop. Click on www.marineheritage.org, then “Online Gift Shop” to review items and place your order.
- The Foundation’s seventh annual Semper Fidelis luncheon in celebration of the 230th Birthday of the Corps will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City hotel in Arlington, Virginia, on November 10, 2005. Event tickets are priced at \$75. Proceeds benefit the Foundation’s programs, including construction of the National Museum. Please call (703) 640-7965 to make your reservation.

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