



# CHALLENGE COINS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH

*Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.*

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN APPRECIATIVE OF A CHALLENGE coin and its history and meaning. I'm currently a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives serving in my 17th year (ninth term). I have a tremendous number of challenge coins in my collection from every branch of the military, state and local governments, federal, state, and local public safety organizations, and even foreign officials. Back in 2017, I decided to create my own challenge coin to exchange with others; but more importantly to recognize constituents and people who do extraordinary things in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond. So far I am on the fourth edition of my challenge coins. The front of the challenge coin essentially has remained the same, with the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the coat of arms. I have added "House of Representatives" and my name to the front of recent coin editions. Essentially, in each edition, the back side of the coin changes.

On the first edition, my name is included in a gold toned ribbon band across the center of the back of the coin. There are a few very rare variants in which my name is included in a red toned ribbon band across the center of the back of the coin and red highlights. Overall the coin was very well received and in strong demand. It was a basic traditional challenge coin.

---

*Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. represents the 12th District (Hampden) in the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, where he chairs the House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs.*



*The first edition (top) and second edition (bottom).*

Next, expanded gaming was implemented in Massachusetts with MGM Springfield opening in 2018. As such, in 2018, I created a wooden poker chip version of the challenge coin to commemorate expanded gaming. Alas, so far, the Puppolo Poker Chip has not been accepted at MGM for a wager, but it's priceless!

In 2020, I wanted to do something to recognize the hard work of first responders and many extraordinary people who were on the front lines and beyond battling COVID-19. Thus the Special Limited COVID-19 Challenge Coin was released. It featured the COVID-19 molecule on the

## *Challenge Coins from the Commonwealth*



*The third edition (top) and fourth edition (bottom).*

backside with Essential Supporter and Limited COVID-19 Edition prominently displayed. This was in extreme high demand and very limited quantities due to shortages of materials and workers. This version of the challenge coin is still sought after.

In 2022, I created the fourth edition; the Limited Patriot Edition, featuring the Minuteman and the shape of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the back side of the coin. The Minuteman not only symbolizes the Revolutionary War, but was involved in many earlier conflicts – always battle ready and “ready in a minute,” they were the first armed militia to

*Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.*

arrive or wait for battle. This challenge coin is a tribute to all people who jump right into a cause or “battle” with a high degree of enthusiasm, reliability, and loyalty. The Patriot Edition challenge coin is currently being distributed and is also a huge hit. Previous editions are rare but are still available, and only given out at my discretion. The fifth edition will be created in the near future – stay tuned GB readers!

*GB*