

# Collector's Journal

A Service of Collectors Alliance

## 2011 Gettysburg National Military Park Quarter Pennsylvania

### *Sixth in the America the Beautiful Quarters Collection*

The first 2011 America the Beautiful Quarter honors Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. The coin was also the sixth coin in the overall series, following the first five coins in 2010. Four additional coins will be issued in 2011; they will honor Glacier National Park in Montana, Olympic National Park in Washington, Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi, and Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma.

The America the Beautiful Quarters series honors one National Park or other national site in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five overseas U.S. territories. Some states – especially those in the eastern and southern parts of the nation – are not home to any National Parks. For these states, including Pennsylvania, sites such as National Military Parks, National Forests, and National Memorials are featured instead of National Parks.

Each state's coin shows a scene from the featured site, from a panoramic view on a coin such as Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona) to small details like a fountain on the Hot Springs National Park (Arkansas) coin.

Each America the Beautiful Quarter is struck for circulation at both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. The two different coins are identified by a small "P" (Philadelphia) or "D" (Denver) mint mark under "In God We Trust."

Gettysburg National Military Park stands on the site of the Battle of Gettysburg in southern Pennsylvania, which was one of the pivotal events in the Civil War. From July 1-3, 1863, about 75,000 Confederate soldiers under General Robert E. Lee and 97,000 Union soldiers under Major General George G. Meade fought at Gettysburg. More men fought and died in this battle than in any other battle on American soil in history.

Although neither side was victorious, the battle proved to be a turning point in the war. After the battle, it was only a



matter of time before the ultimate Union victory. As part of the memorial to the Union soldiers killed in the battle, the Soldiers' National Cemetery was founded on the battle site. President Abraham Lincoln delivered the dedication – known as the Gettysburg Address – on November 19, 1863.

Now a popular tourist site that attracts about 1.5 million visitors annually, Gettysburg National Military Park is a historian's dream. It is filled with monuments and memorials that trace the history of the battle and recount its importance in the history of the Civil War.

The reverse of the Gettysburg National Military Park Quarter shows the 72nd Pennsylvania Infantry Monument on the battle line of the Union army at Cemetery Ridge. The monument was dedicated by veterans of the regiment on July 4, 1891. The design also includes the inscriptions "Gettysburg," "Pennsylvania," the motto "E Pluribus Unum," and the date "2011."

Before selecting the final design, three additional designs were also under consideration. All three also showed monuments within the park: the Soldiers' National Monument, the Eternal Light Peace Memorial, and the Lincoln Speech Memorial that honors Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

The Gettysburg National Military Park Quarter was released by the U.S. Mint in January 2011.

Collectors Alliance • 1942 Swarthmore Avenue • Lakewood, NJ 08701

Call TOLL FREE 1-800-997-9843

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