

## HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY



Following the Revolutionary War, America's founding fathers determined a citizen would be elected as primary administrator over the federal government and the nation's people. George Washington was first to hold the title of President of the United States and 44 presidents and more than 200 years later, the structure remains in place today.

Each year, the nation celebrates Presidents Day, which honors the legacies of those who have led the United States. Thanks to minerals – in particular copper and nickel – our country's currency commemorates these past leaders every day:

- The penny memorializes the 100th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth and was made of pure copper from 1793 to 1837. Over the next several years, the penny was made of different compositions of metals, always including copper. Today, the penny is made of mostly zinc and is coated in copper.
- Due to the need for copper to make cartridge casings during World War II, very few copper pennies were produced in 1943. Because of its rarity, a 1943 copper penny sold in 2010 for a world record price of \$1.7 million.
- The presidential dollar coin features four presidents each year, selected in the order they served in office. These coins are made of more than 88 percent copper and 2 percent nickel, in addition to small amounts of zinc and manganese. The 2015 coins will memorialize Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.
- In addition to the penny and presidential dollar, the nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar and Native American dollar all contain varying amounts of copper and nickel.

Sources:  
U.S. Mint, <http://www.usmint.gov/>  
CoinSite, <http://coinsite.com/1943-copper-us-lincoln-cent/>