

A Small History of the Challenge Coin

Utilized to signify membership to an organization, these small coins come in a variety of shapes, and usually bear designs identifying the organization which they represent.

The coins date back to Roman times, and are still utilized to show appreciation, exemplary performance, id, and in some cases, may serve as fundraisers (as those of the Southwest Ranches Education Advisory Board).

In WWI, a challenge coin is credited with saving the life of a French soldier. After being shot-down by the Germans, he was removed of everything but his leather pouch containing his coin. He managed to escape and return to France. He was initially thought to be a spy, and sentenced to execution, but recognition of his coin's insignia saved his life!

Following WWII, the coins came to bear the following challenge: if slammed on the bar counter, the person challenged must present their coin, otherwise the bar tab was theirs to pay; presentation of a coin left the challenger paying the bill.

Coins have come to commemorate survival, membership in a special military group, allegiance, may be passed-on via secret handshake...the list continues.

Please support the Scholarship Fund of The Town of Southwest Ranches and purchase your 2019 Southwest Ranches Challenge Coin. They are available at Town Hall, and cost \$15.



Front of Coin



Back of Coin