

## **Over 400 Attend Coin Launch at James A. Garfield National Historic Site**

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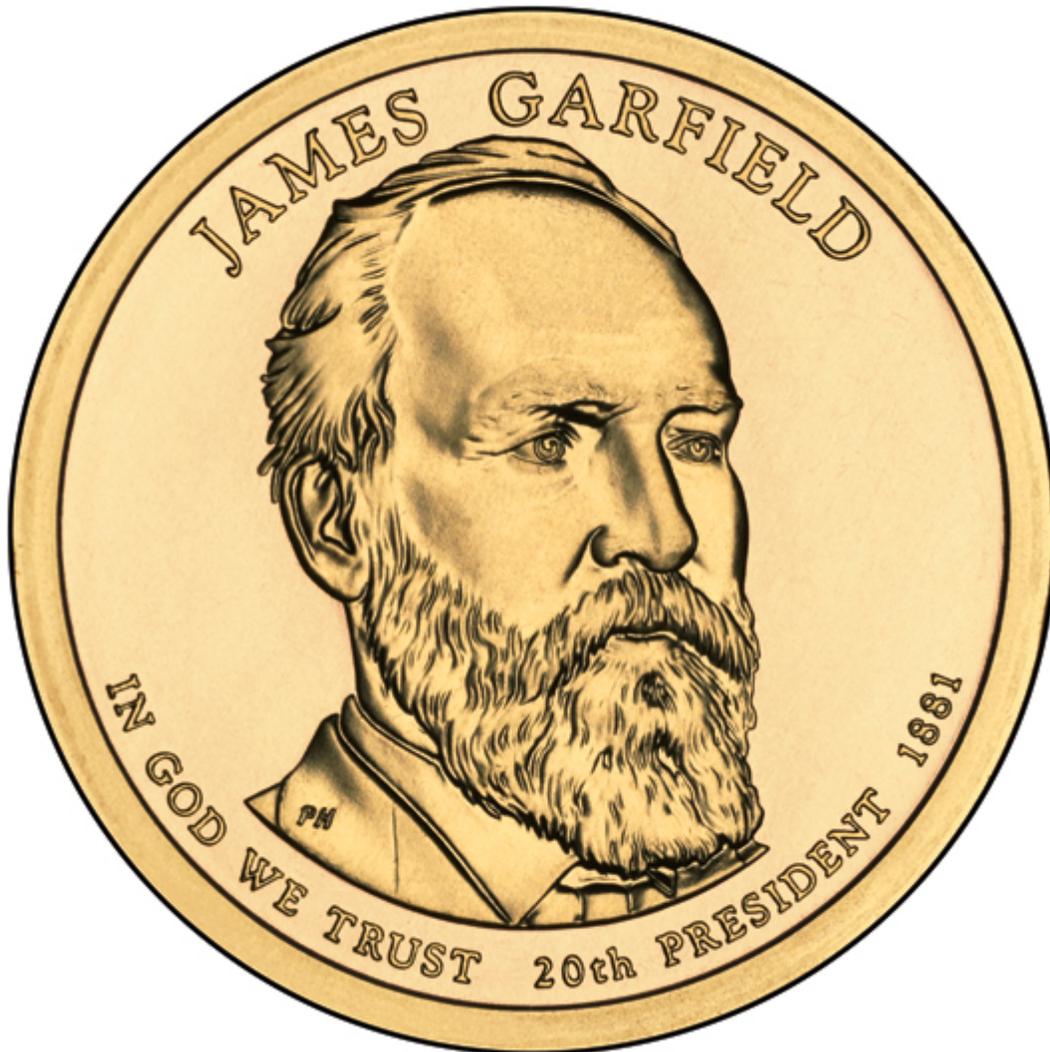
James A. Garfield National Historic Site

Approximately 450 visitors braved cold weather and snow flurries to attend the November 17 launch of the James A. Garfield Presidential \$1 coin at James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio. The \$1 gold coin is the twentieth in the U.S. Mint's series of coins commemorating each of America's presidents. Elected in 1880, James A. Garfield was the nation's twentieth president. He served just four months of his term in 1881 before being shot by an assassin on July 2, 1881. He lingered for 80 days, dying September 19, 1881. The Thursday, November 17 ceremony came just two days before the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Garfield's November 19, 1831 birth.

About 25 Garfield family members and descendants of President Garfield attended the ceremony. The president's great-grandson, Rudolph H. Garfield, spoke to the attendees, thanking them for coming and telling them that his great-grandfather would be proud to host them on his property, which is now preserved as James A. Garfield National Historic Site. Dr. Allan Peskin, Professor of History (Emeritus) at Cleveland State University and the author of the definitive biography *Garfield* provided the ceremony's keynote address. Peskin spoke at length about Garfield's interest in fiscal policy during his 18 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Other speakers included NPS Midwest Region Deputy Director Patricia Trap, James A. Garfield National Historic Site Superintendent Sherda Williams, Acting Associate Director for Manufacturing J. Marc Landry of the U.S. Mint, and representatives from the offices of U.S. Congressman Steven C. LaTourette and U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown. Cardinal Community Credit Union of Mentor was on hand to facilitate a coin exchange, offering the public the opportunity to exchange cash for new Garfield coins. Following the ceremony, the site's staff and volunteers opened the Garfield home for public tours.

The staff of James A. Garfield National Historic Site worked on the ceremony and related events for over a year. Related events included: coin design, essay, and poetry competitions (sponsored by the Lake County Bar Association); an evening convocation featuring bestselling Garfield biographer Candice Millard at nearby Hiram College (once headed by a young James A. Garfield before the Civil War); a three-day coin show in nearby Eastlake (organized by Affordable Coins and Supply, Inc.); and a 12.5 mile hike from Garfield's birthplace in Moreland Hills to his final resting place in The Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland (planned in partnership with the Moreland Hills Historical Society and The Lake View Cemetery).

Besides those mentioned, other valuable partners included the U.S. Mint, the Garfield family, the City of Mentor, Lakeland Community College, Eastern National, Sons of the American Revolution, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and the dedicated volunteers of James A. Garfield National Historic Site.



The new James A. Garfield Presidential \$1 coin, officially launched into circulation on November 17 at James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio. U.S. Mint image.



The Garfield home at James A. Garfield National Historic Site. NPS photo.



A few of the nearly 25 Garfield family members that attended the November 17 coin launch.  
NPS photo.



Dr. Allan Peskin delivers the keynote address at the Garfield coin launch, November 17, 2011.  
Photo courtesy of Duncan Scott and *The News-Herald*.



A close up of new Garfield \$1 coins, officially launched by the U.S. Mint on November 17 at James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, Ohio. Photo courtesy of Duncan Scott and *The News-Herald*.



L-R: Keynote speaker Dr. Allan Peskin; U.S. Mint Acting Associate Director for Manufacturing J. Marc Landry; and Rudolph H. Garfield, great-grandson of President James A. Garfield, have a look at the new Garfield \$1 Presidential coin during the launch ceremony on November 17.

Photo courtesy of Duncan Scott and *The News-Herald*.