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For Immediate Release

Contact: Patrick A. Heller 517/351-4720 or email to path@libertycoinservice.com

Denver Mint To Start Production Of Michigan State Quarter On January 8 LCS's Pat Heller And Son To Participate In Opening Ceremonies

For the first time ever, a State Quarter First Strike Ceremony will take place at the Denver Mint instead of the Philadelphia Mint when production of the Michigan State Quarter begins on January 8. Liberty Coin Service owner Patrick A. Heller and his son Daniel will be among the handful of people participating in the Denver Ceremony.

Heller said, "I am looking forward to the honor of personally striking one of the first Michigan Quarters along with other members of the Michigan Quarter Commission and officials from the U.S. Mint and Michigan State Government. The U.S. Mint modified its restriction that did not allow attendees under the age of ten in order to include my six year-old son in the Ceremony. As a result, Daniel may be the youngest participant in any of the State Quarter First Strike Ceremonies."

Heller served as Chair of the Michigan State Numismatic Society 2004 Michigan Quarter Design Committee and as a member of the Michigan Quarter Commission appointed by former Governor John Engler. He has volunteered his time for more than three years soliciting, tabulating, and evaluating Michigan Quarter design ideas from the public, sharing his knowledge of the coin production process with other members of the Michigan Quarter Commission, and conducting surveys of the popularity of the five final designs.

The Quarter will feature a textured map of Michigan along with outlines of all five of the Great Lakes plus the motto "Great Lakes State." This design was selected by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm on September 30 from the five final design candidates approved by the U.S. Mint. The design had been recommended to the Governor by the Michigan Quarter Commission and the Fine Arts Commission. Michigan Quarter Commission members recognized that many important industries developed in Michigan because of the state's unique geographical relationship with the Great Lakes, but the small size of the quarter did not provide enough room to honor the breadth and depth of the state's historical, industrial, and agricultural accomplishments. Therefore, the Commission reached consensus on the symbolically all-inclusive design.

The Michigan Quarter is slated for public release on January 26.

Liberty Coin Service, located in the Frandor Shopping Center in Lansing, was founded in 1971 and is Michigan's largest rare coin and precious metals dealership.

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