

New U.S. Quarter Featuring Mexican-American Activist Jovita Idar just Went into Circulation



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Several decades after some of the first newspapers in the U.S. (such as *The Massachusetts Spy* and *the Patriotic Press*) were established during the American Revolution, publications like *El Progreso* illustrated the stories of Mexican-Americans in Texas during the Mexican Revolution. Back then, a young writer named Jovita Idar was at the forefront of journalistic story-telling that often confronted discrimination facing her community. Jovita was so passionate about delivering hard-hitting, unfiltered news to the people that she fought off the Texas Rangers when they attempted to forcefully shut down her newspaper operation. Not only was Jovita a prolific writer during the Mexican Revolution, but she also crossed the border from her home state to provide assistance to Mexico's soldiers as a nurse. Eventually, the Texas Rangers did shut down *El Progreso*, but that did not deter Jovita from continuing her writing career with *La Crónica* while also becoming a significant advocate for women's rights as the first president of La Liga Feminil Mexicaista (the League of Mexican Women). As an activist, Jovita spoke out against the Texas Rangers, the U.S. Army, and former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson regarding a number of social/political matters such as the government deploying troops to the southern border.

In the latter portion of her career, Jovita became an active member of the Democratic Party before volunteering at a local Hospital as a Spanish-to-English interpreter for patients. Jovita passed away in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 60. Today, her legacy lives on at the National Women's History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia, and in literature such as *Latinas in the United States* and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos*.

During the week of August 14th, U.S. Mint released quarters featuring Jovita Idar into circulation. She is one of the first Latinas to be printed in U.S. currency, along with people like Nina Otero-Warren and [Celia Cruz](#).