



Congratulations, due to your service to the SUNY Upstate community during the COVID 19 pandemic, the Department of Emergency Management offers you our sincere thanks and appreciation with this unique challenge coin offered only to SUNY Upstate personnel who go above and beyond in their participation on the Incident Command team.

Several stories exist which detail the origins of the challenge coin, but no one knows for sure exactly how they came to exist.

One story is that The Roman Empire rewarded soldiers by presenting them with coins to celebrate their achievements. A more common story is that during WWI, a wealthy officer had bronze medallions struck with the flying squadron's insignia to give to his men. Shortly after, one of the young flying aces was shot down over Germany and captured. The Germans took everything on his person except his medallion. The pilot escaped and made his way to France. However, the French believed he was a spy and sentenced him to execution. To prove his identity, the pilot presented the medallion. A French soldier happened to recognize the insignia and confirmed his status.

The challenge coin at SUNY Upstate Medical University is unique as it is only given out to those individuals, regardless of position or years of service, who have made a significant positive impact during a critical event. Each coin is labeled on the back, indicating which event it was earned, and each one is individually numbered so no one will ever have the same coin as you.

Please accept this coin as a token of respect and appreciation from the Department of Emergency Management for your leadership and service during our time of need.

Every time you look at this coin, please remember that you truly made a difference in the lives of our patients, staff, and students.

Respectfully Yours,

Christopher Alan Dunham, MBA

Director of Emergency Management

SUNY Upstate Medical University