



# POSTAL NEWS

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## **POSTAL SERVICE SALUTES THE AMERICAN SPIRIT**

### ***Olympians and American Idol Join the U.S. Postal Service's Thanksgiving Day Parade Float***

WASHINGTON – On Thursday, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will once again join revelers in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This year, the Postal Service celebrates the spirit of the nation as USPS's "Spirit of America" float makes its way down the streets of New York City.

The float features an American eagle, and is bordered with the popular *Greetings From America* stamps. The float is a tribute to the hard-working men and women who collect, transport, process and deliver mail to more than 142 million homes and businesses across America.

The celebrities on this year's Postal float during its procession represent American achievers who also do their best. American Idol 2004 winner Fantasia will sing her rendition of "I Believe." Summer Olympics 2004 track and field gold medalists Justin Gatlin (100 meter) and Shawn Crawford (200 meter) will represent speed of delivery. Gymnast Carly Patterson will symbolize flexibility. Volleyball great Misty May and basketball standouts Sue Bird and Swin Cash stand for teamwork, a key to great achievements such as Olympic Gold or providing universal delivery service.

The "Spirit of America" float will be visible at 11:23 a.m. on NBC television Thursday Nov. 25, following the Uncle Sam balloon.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail.

It is an independent federal agency that visits 141 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68.9 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven million customers each day at its 40,000 retail locations nationwide.