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POSTAL NEWS

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U.S. Postal Service Ready and Waiting for Valentine's Day

Washington, D.C. – Make Valentine's Day very personal this year. Create and send your own card. Without leaving your home. When it's convenient for you.

The United States Postal Service offers more than 50 different Valentine's Day cards, waiting online to carry individual messages and wishes. Cover designs are provided. The sender provides the sentiment. For those who may be a little tongue-tied, the Postal Service also provides some "suggested sentiments."

Simply log on to www.usps.com/cardstore and start shopping. NetPost CardStore is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Complementing the more traditional images of flowers and Teddy Bears this year is a red-white-and-blue heart designed especially to send to members of the military and those serving overseas.

NetPost CardStore also offers gift cards from a variety of retailers, including Bed, Bath and Beyond, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Vons, Lowe's and Macaroni Grill. These gift cards are available in denominations from \$25 to \$200 and can be mailed directly to the purchaser. The Postal Service will send it by First-Class Mail.

Add the finishing touch: a First Class-Mail candy heart postage stamp. More than 750 million stamps were printed last year. Stamps feature the universally recognized candy message hearts inscribed with "I Love You," "Be Mine," "Marry Me," and "cutie Pie." The stamp is based on "Sweethearts" conversation hearts made by the New England Confectionery Company since 1866. Candy Heart Stamps are available online at the Postal Store on www.usps.com.

In other love-related news, the Postal Service will unveil the 2005 entry in the popular Love stamp series on Feb. 18. About 1.5 billion stamps will be printed and have been used to acknowledge weddings, birthdays, Mother's Day, graduations and, yes, Valentine's Day.

For more information on the United States Postal Service, its products and customer service opportunities, visit us on the web at www.usps.com.

Since 1775, the Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 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 \$69 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 Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume- some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year- and serves seven million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

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