

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WILMA RUDOLPH, TRACK AND FIELD OLYMPIAN,
TO BE HONORED ON U.S. POSTAGE STAMP**

WASHINGTON — Wilma Rudolph will receive one of the nation's highest tributes when the U.S. Postal Service issues a postage stamp in her honor during a special press conference and ceremony July 14 in Sacramento, CA. Rudolph's extraordinary athletic talents inspired generations of female athletes and the physically disabled.

"We are delighted to honor Wilma Rudolph's accomplishments, both on and beyond the track, as part of our Distinguished Americans stamp series," said Henry A. Pankey, Vice President, Emergency Preparedness, U.S.

Postal Service, who will dedicate the stamp. "Wilma Rudolph was simply amazing. She overcame a number of debilitating illnesses to become one of this nation's greatest athletes. She taught us, among other things, not to allow our circumstances to hinder our potential to succeed."

The twenty-three cent stamp, good for post cards and the second-ounce First-Class Letter rate, will be dedicated during a 9 a.m. (PST) press conference in the Grand Ballroom, Sacramento Convention Center, 105 15th St., Sacramento, CA. A second dedication, for the general public, will take place on the west steps of the State Capitol building, 10th between L and N Sts., Sacramento, CA. at noon (PST).

The dedication will be part of festivities around the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Track and Field, July 9-18, at the Alex G. Spanos Sports Complex at California State University, Sacramento.

Expected to attend the ceremonies are U.S. Olympic medalists Bob Beamon, Michael Johnson, Jackie Joyner Kersey, Bob Mathias, Bill Mills and the celebrated Tennessee State Tigerbelle Olympians.

The Rudolph stamp is fifth in the Distinguished Americans series. It was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, AZ. Artist Mark Summers of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, created the portrait for the stamp, referencing a photograph of Rudolph taken after she won three gold



medals at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. Summers also was the artist for the first four stamps in the Distinguished Americans series — Joseph W. Stilwell (2000), Claude Pepper (2000), Hattie W. Caraway (2001) and Edna Ferber (2002).

As host city for this first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony, Sacramento holds the unique distinction of being the nation's only city where the stamp will be available July 14. The stamp will be available at Post Offices and Philatelic Centers nationwide July 15.

Born June 23, 1940, in St. Bethlehem, TN, Rudolph grew up in nearby Clarksville. As a young child, Rudolph's left leg was crippled by polio. Determined to walk without a brace, Rudolph wrote in her 1977 autobiography, "I think I started acquiring a competitive spirit right then and there ... a spirit that would make me successful in sports later on." By the time she was 12, the brace had been sent back to the hospital, and Rudolph was the star of her high school track and basketball teams. Within four years she had developed into a world-class sprinter. After graduating high school, Rudolph received a full scholarship to Tennessee State College, today Tennessee State University.

At the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, 16-year-old Rudolph helped her team win a bronze medal in the 400-meter team relay. Four years later in Rome, after setting a world record at trials in Texas, she became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track-and-field during a single Olympic Games. Running on a sprained ankle, Rudolph placed first in the 100-and 200-meter dashes and anchored her team to victory in the 400-meter relay.

Rudolph retired from running in 1962 at the height of her success. She worked as a teacher and a coach, and in the early 1980s established the Wilma Rudolph Foundation, a nonprofit group focused on development of young athletes.

Respected for her perseverance and grace, she was twice named Associated Press Woman Athlete of the Year (1960, 1961), inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1983, and honored with the National Sports Award in 1993.

Wilma Rudolph died in her Brentwood, TN, home, outside Nashville, on Nov. 12, 1994.

To see the Wilma Rudolph stamp and other images from the 2004 Commemorative Stamp Program, visit the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop and click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

Current U.S. stamps and stationery, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free telephone order at 1-800-STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps and other philatelic items also are available at the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop, and www.postalartgallery.com offers beautifully framed prints of original stamp art for delivery straight to the home or office.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to about 141 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver 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 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. 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 38,000 retail locations nationwide.

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Pane of 20

Issue:	<i>Wilma Rudolph</i>
Item Number:	108400
Denomination & Type of Issue:	23-cent definitive
Format:	Pane of 20 (1 design)
Series:	<i>Distinguished Americans</i>
Issue Date & City:	July 14, 2004, Sacramento, CA 95813
Designer:	Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Artist:	Mark Summers, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada
Engraver:	N/A
Art Director:	Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Typographer:	Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Modeler:	Joseph Sheeran, Williamsville, NY
Manufacturing Process:	Offset/Intaglio
Printer:	Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU)
Printed at:	Williamsville, NY
Press Type:	Steven's, Vari-size Security Press
Stamps per Pane:	20
Print Quantity:	100 million stamps
Paper Type:	Prephosphored, Type I
Adhesive Type:	Pressure Sensitive
Processed at:	Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.
Colors:	
Offset:	Warm Red
Intaglio:	Black
Stamp Orientation:	Vertical
Image Area (w x h):	0.73 x 0.84 in./18.542 x 21.336 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	0.87 x 0.98 in./22.098 x 24.892 mm
Full Pane Size (w x h):	5.35 x 4.93 in./135.89 x 125.222 mm
Plate Size:	240 stamps per revolution
Plate Numbers:	"P" followed by two (2) single digits
Marginal Markings:	© 2003 USPS • Price • Plate Numbers on four corners • Plate Position Diagram • Barcodes on four corners on back of pane
Catalog Item Number(s):	108420 Block of 4 — \$0.92 108430 Block of 10 — \$2.30 108440 Full Pane of 20 — \$4.60 108462 First Day Cover — \$0.84 108493 Full Pane w/First Day Cover — \$5.44

How to Order the First-Day-of-Issue Postmark

Customers have 30 days to obtain the first day of issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office, by telephone at 1-800-STAMP-24, and at the Postal Store Web site at www.usps.com/shop. They should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

WILMA RUDOLPH DEFINITIVE STAMP
POSTMASTER
2000 ROYAL OAKS DR
SAVRAMENTO CA 95813-9998

After applying the first day of issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark. All orders must be postmarked by August 13, 2004.

How to Order the First-Day Covers

Stamp Fulfillment Services also offers first day covers for new stamp issues and Postal Service stationery items postmarked with the official first day of issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number and is offered in the quarterly *USA Philatelic* catalog. Customers may request a free catalog by telephoning 800-STAMP-24 or writing to:

INFORMATION FULFILLMENT
DEPT 6270
US POSTAL SERVICE
PO BOX 219014
KANSAS CITY MO 64121-9014

TECHNICAL DETAILS Vending Booklet of 10

Issue:	<i>Wilma Rudolph</i>
Item Number:	672900
Denomination & Type of Issue:	23-cent definitive
Format:	Vending Booklet of 10 (1 design)
Series:	<i>Distinguished Americans</i>
Issue Date & City:	July 14, 2004, Sacramento, CA 95813
Designer:	Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Artist:	Mark Summers, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada
Engraver:	N/A
Art Director:	Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Typographer:	Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Modeler:	Joseph Sheeran, Williamsville, NY
Manufacturing Process:	Offset
Printer:	Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU)
Printed at:	Williamsville, NY
Press Type:	Mueller Martini, A76 Modified
Stamps per Booklet:	10
Print Quantity:	40,495,000 stamps
Paper Type:	Prephosphored, Type I
Adhesive Type:	Pressure Sensitive
Processed at:	Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.
Colors:	Black, Special Match Pink
Stamp Orientation:	Vertical
Image Area (w x h):	0.73 x 0.84 in./18.542 x 21.336 mm
Overall Size (w x h):	0.87 x 0.982 in./22.098 x 24.942 mm
Booklet Size (w x h):	1.74 x 6.5 in./44.196 x 165.1 mm
Plate Size:	390 stamps per revolution
Plate Numbers:	"P" followed by two (2) single digits

Marginal Markings:
Catalog Item Number(s):

© 2003 USPS • Plate Numbers • USPS logo • “Peel here to fold”
672940 Vending Book of 10 — \$2.30

TECHNICAL DETAILS
Convertible Booklet of 10

Issue: *Wilma Rudolph*
Item Number: 673000
Denomination & Type of Issue: 23-cent definitive
Format: Convertible Booklet of 10 (1 design)
Series: *Distinguished Americans*
Issue Date & City: July 14, 2004, Sacramento, CA 95813
Designer: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Artist: Mark Summers, Waterdown, Ontario, Canada
Engraver: N/A
Art Director: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Typographer: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, AZ
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran, Williamsville, NY
Manufacturing Process: Offset
Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. (APU)
Printed at: Williamsville, NY
Press Type: Mueller Martini, A76 Modified
Stamps per Booklet: 10
Print Quantity: 300 million stamps
Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type I
Adhesive Type: Pressure Sensitive
Processed at: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.
Colors: Black, Special Match Pink
Stamp Orientation: Vertical
Image Area (w x h): 0.73 x 0.84 in./18.542 x 21.336 mm
Overall Size (w x h): 0.87 x 0.982 in./22.098 x 24.942 mm
Booklet Size (w x h): 1.74 x 6.5 in./44.196 x 165.1 mm
Plate Size: 390 stamps per revolution
Plate Numbers: “P” followed by two (2) single digits
Marginal Markings: © 2003 USPS • Plate Numbers • USPS logo • “Peel here to fold”
Catalog Item Number(s): 673040 Convertible Book of 10 — \$2.30
673062 First Day Cover — \$0.84