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202-268-4924
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CITIZEN'S STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR RETIRES

WASHINGTON – Dr. Virginia Noelke, Chair of the Postmaster General's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will leave the Committee after nearly 30 years of dedicated service, Postmaster General John E. Potter announced today. During her tenure, Noelke was instrumental in selecting more than 2,400 postage stamp subjects from more than one million suggestions.

“Virginia’s commitment to communicating the American experience through postage stamps and stationery has been an invaluable asset to the Postal Service and our nation,” Potter said. “Over the years Virginia has brought a unique and valued historical perspective to the work of the Committee — a perspective nurtured by her distinguished professional career as Chairman and Professor of History of the Angelo State University Department of History.”

“It has been tremendously rewarding for 30 years to work with many talented and dedicated people — members, art directors and Postal Service staff alike,” said Noelke, who will continue to teach at the San Angelo, Texas University. “The goal has been to produce a superior United States stamp program. I hope we have succeeded.”

Potter credited Noelke’s knowledge of American history to helping guide the Committee in developing several stamp series that celebrated contemporary American



Postmaster General John E. Potter presents retiring Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee Chair Dr. Virginia Noelke with a letter from President Bush that thanks her for nearly thirty-years of dedicated service. Noelke, a professor of history at Angelo State University, was instrumental in selecting more than 2,400 stamp subjects from more than one million stamp suggestion ideas. The Committee receives more than 50,000 correspondences for stamp subject proposals annually and is responsible for making subject and design recommendations to the Postmaster General. Photo: USPS

culture; among them the popular American Music series, the Legends of Hollywood series and the American Treasures series. She also played a strong role in the selection of stamps for the Legends of the West and Civil War panes.

Noelke was appointed to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee by Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar in Sept. 1975. Her first stamp subject was the American Bicentennial. Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon appointed her to Chair the Committee in 1993. Dr. C. Douglas Lewis, a member of the Committee since 1975, succeeds Noelke as Chair Oct. 15.

Established in 1957, the Committee receives more than 50,000 correspondences for stamp subject proposals annually and is responsible for making subject and design recommendations to the Postmaster General.

The members are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Postmaster General. The Committee is currently composed of 13 members whose backgrounds reflect a wide range of educational, artistic, historical and professional expertise. All share an interest in philately and fulfilling the needs of postal customers.

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 more than 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.