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202-268-4924
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PURPLE HEART STAMP TO BE REISSUED

Washington – The U.S. Postal Service will re-issue the Purple Heart stamp, which was originally issued on May 30, 2003, to honor the sacrifice of members of the United State military services who have been killed or wounded in action.

The Purple Heart stamp is a unique stamp subject depicting a military medal that recognizes the sacrifice of men and women who shed their blood in the defense of the country.

“At a time when our military service members continue to serve in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is appropriate that the Purple Heart stamp be reissued at the new First-Class rate,” the Postal Service said.

On January 8, 2006, the price of First-Class postage increased to 39 cents. The specific date for the issue of the 39-cent Purple Heart stamp will be announced shortly. Until the new stamp is available, the current 37-cent Purple Heart stamp will remain on sale at Post Offices, online at the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop, through the USA Philatelic catalog and by calling toll free 1-800-STAMP-24.



Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 144 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week 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 \$70 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 half of the world's mail volume - some 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its website, usps.com, attracts more than 21 million visitors each month