

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**POSTAL SERVICE'S 2005 STAMP PROGRAM
EARNS DESIGN AWARD STAMP OF APPROVAL**

WASHINGTON – It's not exactly the Olympics, but the Postal Service's 2005 Stamp Program did win three Gold Medals for its artistic and design excellence. A total of 20 prizes for stamp designs, illustrations, and the USA Philatelic catalog were awarded to the Postal Service by top graphic design publications and organizations.

"We've known all along that the American public loves the images on our postage stamps," said David Failor, Executive Director, Stamp Services. "But it's wonderful to be held in such high regard by the country's leading design professionals. It's a tribute to the dedication and commitment of our Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee and the talented artists and designers who work on our behalf."

Cloudscapes, Lewis & Clark Bicentennial, and Pacific Coral Reef designs were awarded Gold Medals by Creativity 35, a national and global showcase of the top talent in the advertising and design industry. Postal customers asking our Retail Sales Associates, "What pretty stamps do you have?" can choose from a collection of award-winning stamp designs. And now we have the Medals to prove it.



Other stamp designs that earned Merit Awards and Awards of Distinction are: Love Bouquet, Isamu Noguchi, Snowy Egret, Reptiles and Amphibians, Love: Candy Hearts, Art of the American Indian, Modern American Architecture, Marian Anderson, and Advances in American Aviation. These awards were given by publications and organizations such as *Communications Arts* magazine, Creativity 35, *PRINT* magazine and American Institute of Graphic Arts.

USA Philatelic Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 catalogs also earned American Graphic Design Merit Awards. For more information, jpeg images and a complete listing of stamp awards, contact George Flanigan at 202-268-4385.

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 \$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 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.