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Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee Long-time Sports Authority Digger Phelps Departs; Martin Pedersen and Jessica Helfand Appointed

WASHINGTON — Digger Phelps, the leading authority for sports-related issues on the committee that recommends subjects for U.S. postage stamps, will depart after nearly 23 years of service, Postmaster General John E. Potter announced today. During Phelps' tenure on the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, more than 2,000 postage stamp subjects were issued, from almost one million suggestions.

Two new members have also been named to the Stamp Advisory Committee: Jessica Helfand — award-winning editorial and interactive designer and author — and B. Martin Pedersen, honored graphic designer and sought-after speaker. Both are leading designers in America. Their appointments are effective this month.

"Digger's credentials as an authority on sports, coupled with his distinguished career as head basketball coach for Notre Dame, as an ESPN television sports commentator, a philanthropist for youth mentoring programs and hurricane Katrina victims, have made the U.S. Postal Service's stamp program second to none," Potter said. "His selfless and tireless work with the committee is evidenced by numerous socially significant stamp releases, such as *Malcolm X*. He also worked on several boxing, basketball and sporting heroes stamps, as well as the blockbuster *Legends of Baseball*, *Baseball's Legendary Playing Fields*, and the recent *Baseball Sluggers* stamps."

"Serving on this committee deeply impacted my life in many ways," said Phelps. "Since grammar school, I've collected stamps that tell the story of this great country. To serve on the distinguished committee whose purpose is to recommend these iconic cultural images to the Postmaster General was a dream come true for me. The incredible people I sat with on that committee, artistic and literary Americans like actor Karl Malden — profoundly touched my soul."

Phelps said he will now focus his time and energy on his philanthropic work organizing after-school youth and mentoring programs, and his efforts to organize Rotary club groups and University Coaches for Hurricane Katrina Recovery efforts.

Postmaster General William F. Bolger appointed Phelps to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee in 1983. While serving on the committee, Phelps continued his arduous schedule of coaching basketball for Notre Dame and serving as a member of President George H.W. Bush's administration in the Office of National Drug Control Policy. He also co-authored two books, fulfilled commitments for major media appearances and was a commentator for sports shows on ABC, CBS and ESPN.

Born in Beacon, NY, in 1941, Phelps attended Rider College in Trenton, NJ, where he played basketball for four years. After graduation, Phelps kicked off his coaching career as a high-school coach at St. Gabriel's

in Hazleton, PA, then in 1966 moved to the University of Pennsylvania as an assistant to Dick Harter. Phelps left Penn to begin his head coaching career at Fordham University in 1970. As one of only 19 assistant coaches hand-picked by former Indiana coach Bobby Knight to help select the 1984 Olympic Team, Phelps owns a career coaching ledger of 419-200 for a .677 winning percentage.

In addition to recognizing Phelps' contributions, Postmaster General Potter also welcomed the committee's two new members, Jessica Helfand and Martin Pederson.

"I am also proud to welcome Jessica and Martin to the committee," said Potter. "Their expertise in the arts and design will continue to bring energy, great design and cultural relevance to our world-renowned postage stamp program."

Jessica Helfand is a partner in Winterhouse Studio, focusing on publishing projects and new media. She is one of the founding editors of *Design Observer*, currently the largest international web blog of design and cultural criticism, with more than 750,000 monthly site visits. She has written for numerous national publications and twice appeared on National Public Radio. A member of the Writers Guild of America for more than two decades, Helfand is the author of several books on design and cultural criticism. She received a bachelor of arts in Graphic Design and Architectural Theory and a master of fine arts in Graphic Design, both from Yale University, where she has been Senior Critic in Graphic Design since 1996.

B. Martin Pedersen's early career encompassed both advertising and design, with positions at ad agencies and the celebrated design and advertising department at Geigy Pharmaceuticals. Pedersen has worked as the corporate design director at American Airlines. He established Pedersen Design in 1968, and founded, designed and published a new magazine called *Nautical Quarterly*. He owns Graphis, Inc., an international publishing firm that produces magazines and books for the communications industry and lectures at schools and universities in the U.S. and Europe. Pedersen was elected as a member of Alliance Graphique International and in 1997 was elected to the Art Directors' Hall of Fame. In 2003, Pedersen was awarded with the American Institute of Graphic Arts gold medal.

Established in 1957, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee annually receives more than 50,000 cards and letters proposing and supporting stamp subjects 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 composed of 15 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 United States Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency that visits more than 144 million homes and businesses every day, the Postal Service is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. It 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 \$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 U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume — some 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year — and serves ten million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.

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