

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2007

Contact: Roy Betts
202-268-3207
roy.a.betts@usps.gov
Stamp Release No. 07-019
www.usps.com

Margaret Chase Smith, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Air Force One and Marine One Stamps Available Today

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Available today are the 58-cent 2-ounce, Margaret Chase Smith stamp the 75-cent 3-ounce Harriet Beecher Stowe stamp, the \$4.60 Priority Mail Air Force One stamp and the \$16.25 Express Mail Marine One stamp.

These stamps and more are currently available for purchase on www.usps.com, by calling 800-STAMP-24; or in Post Offices nationwide.

(Note: To obtain a downloadable 300 dpi image of the stamps in this release visit the 2007 Commemorative Stamp Program link at <http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007stamps/definitives/>.)

Margaret Chase Smith (2-ounce price) 58 cents — on sale June 13



With this eighth issuance in the Distinguished Americans series, the United States Postal Service honors Margaret Chase Smith, who in 1948 became the first Republican woman elected to the U.S. Senate. At that time, having already served in the House of Representatives, she also became the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

Smith is best remembered for her early challenge to McCarthyism with a political career spanning three decades. In 1950, she became the first senator of either party to condemn the campaign of character assassination waged by Senator Joseph McCarthy in his pursuit of communists within the government and the entertainment industry.

Margaret Chase was born in Skowhegan, Maine, on December 14, 1897. After graduating from high school in 1916, she worked as a telephone operator and a teacher before taking employment at a weekly newspaper co-owned by Clyde H. Smith. They married in 1930 when Chase was 32. When her husband was elected to the House of Representatives in 1936, she served as his secretary. In a special election after his death in 1940, Margaret Chase Smith was chosen to complete the rest of his term. She was elected in her own right later that year.

In the 1948 U.S. senatorial race, Smith received more votes than her three male opponents combined. Four years later, she was mentioned as a possible vice presidential candidate, and in 1964 — without accepting any campaign contributions — she ran for president.

After leaving the Senate, Smith served as a visiting lecturer at various colleges and universities. She received nearly a hundred honorary degrees. In 1989, President George Herbert Walker Bush awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor.

Margaret Chase Smith died in her hometown of Skowhegan, Maine, on May 29, 1995. She was 97 years old.

Artist Mark Summers created the portrait on the stamp. The artwork is based on a photograph by the Harris & Ewing studio, dated 1948.

Harriet Beecher Stowe (3-ounce price) 75 cents — on sale June 13



The ninth issuance in the Distinguished Americans series honors Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811–1896) today with a 75-cent (3-ounce price) Harriet Beecher Stowe definitive stamp. The stamp features a portrait of Harriet Beecher Stowe by artist Mark Summers — known for his scratchboard technique — based on a circa 1855 stipple* engraving by English engraver Francis Holl (1815–1884), which in turn was based on an earlier portrait of Stowe by English painter George Richmond (1809–1896). The engraving is from the collection of the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Summers also created the stamp art for the previous issuances in the Distinguished Americans series. Designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Ariz., the stamp is available nationwide today in self-adhesive panes of 20.

*As defined in the *Bulfinch Pocket Dictionary of Art Terms*, a stipple print is “created by building up the design from minute dots or flicks. Stipple is used with both etching and engraving processes, with the intent to resemble crayon.” The online *ArtLex Art Dictionary* defines “stipple” as “a drawing or engraving method employing dots rather than lines.”

Stowe, the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, one of the most influential novels in American history, also penned several other novels, as well as children's stories, poems and nonfictional works. She was a frequent contributor to publications such as *Godey's Lady's Book* and the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Stowe's tale first appeared in the *National Era*, an abolitionist newspaper in Washington, D.C. Published in serial form, it ran from June 5, 1851 to April 1, 1852. The completed work was published in book form as *Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life Among the Lowly*, on March 20, 1852. The novel, which quickly became a bestseller, helped to solidify antislavery sentiments in the years leading up to the Civil War and made Stowe internationally famous. It has been translated into numerous languages.

Harriet Beecher Stowe was born in Litchfield, Conn., on June 14, 1811; she died in Hartford, Conn., on July 1, 1896. On June 9, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford hosted a free day of family fun to honor the 196th birthday of Stowe with a garden party acknowledging her love of gardens, plants and flowers. The day also included a special unveiling of the Harriet Beecher Stowe stamp by Postal Service officials.

Air Force One (Priority Mail) \$4.60 — on sale June 13



Often referred to as the “Flying Oval Office,” Air Force One is a prominent symbol of the presidency. Probably the most famous jetliner in the world, Air Force One looks like a commercial jumbo jet except for its distinctive exterior: red, white and blue paint and the words “United States of America” on the fuselage. Inside, however, it is clear that this is no ordinary plane. Not only are there separate quarters for the president and first lady, but there are two galleys where food is prepared, a conference/dining room, office space for senior staff members, and work and rest areas for the presidential staff, Air Force crews and media representatives traveling with the president. Noted aviation artist William S. Phillips created the image of Air Force One for the 2007 Priority Mail stamp.

Marine One (Express Mail) \$16.25 — on sale June 13



Often seen on the White House lawn, Marine One also travels with the president wherever he goes. It is always met on the ground by at least one Marine in full dress uniform. Marine Helicopter Squadron One, HMX-1, was established in 1947 as an experimental unit to test and evaluate helicopters. Today this squadron and its fleet of 19 helicopters provide all helicopter transport for the president, vice president and members of the Cabinet. More than 800 Marines supervise the operation of the fleet, which is based in Quantico, Va. Noted aviation artist William S. Phillips created the image of Marine One for the 2007 Express Mail stamp. Phillips was the stamp artist for the 2005 American Advances in Aviation souvenir sheet.

An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to cover its operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$73 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.