

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Commemorative Stamps Keep America in Stitches Postal Service Issues Holiday Knits Postage



To obtain a 300 dpi image of the stamp visit:
<http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007stamps/downloadcenter.htm>

WASHINGTON, DC — Just in time for the start of the winter holiday season, the U.S. Postal Service joined in the fun by issuing the Holiday Knits Commemorative stamps today at a first-day-of-issue ceremony at the 2007 Mega Stamp Show at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The four stamps featuring classic wintertime imagery, and were designed and machine-knitted by New York-based illustrator Nancy Stahl, who has previously designed several other stamps for the Postal Service.

“The new holiday stamps provide another way for people to express warm winter greetings on all their mailings sent this season to family, friends or customers,” said Katherine C. Tobin, member, Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service. “These stamps will grace hundreds of thousands of envelopes and packages as they travel across the country this winter, and it is our hope that the stamps will provide a sense of joy to those receiving mail through their images of nature’s beauty in the winter.”

Inspired by traditional Norwegian sweaters and knitted Christmas stockings, Stahl said she decided on “something cozy” for this year’s holiday stamp issuance. The images consist of a dignified stag, a snow-dappled evergreen tree, a perky snowman sporting a top hat and a whimsical teddy bear. Stahl used computer software to draw her original designs and convert them to stitches and rows, which she downloaded to an electronic knitting machine.

The machine’s smaller stitch gauge didn’t provide quite the effect Stahl was looking for, though, so she transferred the designs onto punch cards and used a different machine that works like an old Jacquard loom. Stahl scanned the finished pieces to create photographic images, and then retouched them to ensure that the stitches aligned properly. The result is a set of four colorful and “cozy” stamps that will add an extra touch of warmth to seasonal correspondence.

Stahl's previous projects for the Postal Service include the Art Deco Eagle Stamp in 2001, and the Snowy Egret stamp in 2004. This year, Stahl also designed the Bighorn Sheep and Wedding Hearts stamps.

Starting Oct. 25, the Holiday Knits stamps can be purchased online at the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop, by calling toll-free 800-STAMP-24, at philatelic centers nationwide and at local Post Offices.

In addition to the Holiday Knits stamps, four additional stamps from the Holiday Celebration series will be available nationwide as well: Eid, the Muslim Holiday stamp, was issued Sept. 28; the Christmas stamp will be issued Oct. 25; and stamps commemorating Kwanzaa and Hanukkah will be issued Oct. 26.

The Postal Service produced 1.87 billion Holiday Knit stamps, 200 million of which are in panes of 20. The Postal Service also produced 700 million of The Madonna of the Carnation stamps, 50 million Kwanzaa stamps, 50 million Hanukkah stamps and 40 million Eid stamps.

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Please Note: For broadcast quality video and audio, photo stills and other media resources, visit the USPS Newsroom at www.usps.com/news.

An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation, 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 pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

Philatelic Products

There are five philatelic products available for this stamp issue:

- 569663 — First Day Cover Set of 4, \$3.16.
- 569668 — Digital Color Postmark Set of 4, \$6.00.
- 569691 — Ceremony Program, \$6.95.
- 569693 — First Day Cover Keepsake, \$11.36.
- 569699 — Digital Color Postmark Keepsake, \$14.20.

How to Order First Day Covers

Stamp Fulfillment Services also offers first day covers for new stamp issues and Postal Service stationery items postmarked with the official first day of issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number and is offered in the quarterly *USA Philatelic* catalog. Customers may request a free catalog by calling 800-STAMP-24 or writing to:

Information Fulfillment
Dept. 6270
U.S. Postal Service
P.O. Box 219014
Kansas City, MO 64121-9014

How to Order the First-Day-of-Issue Postmark

Customers have 60 days to obtain the first day of issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office, by calling 800-STAMP-24, or at the Postal Store website at usps.com/shop. They should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

Holiday Knits Stamps
Postmaster
421 Eighth Ave Rm. 2029B
New York, NY 10199-9998

After applying the first day of issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail.