

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 31, 2007

Palm Desert, CA, Contact: Mark Saunders 202-268-6524
cell: 202-320-0782
mark.r.saunders@usps.gov

Grand Rapids, MI, Contact: Patricia Licata 202-268-2783
cell: 202-262-3208
patricia.licata@usps.gov
Release No. 07-036
www.usps.com/news

Betty Ford Dedicates Gerald R. Ford Stamp *Dedication Ceremonies in Palm Desert, CA, and Grand Rapids, MI*



Download a 300 dpi image of the stamp at:

<http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007stamps/downloadcenter.htm>

Broadcast quality b-roll of the Gerald R. Ford stamp printing process is available via Pathfire and standard broadcast through the USPS Newsroom at <http://www.usps.com/news>. An audio news release is also available through this link.

WASHINGTON, DC — Former First Lady Betty Ford joined Postmaster General John E. Potter today to dedicate the Gerald R. Ford commemorative stamp in Palm Desert, CA, at the McCallum Theater. A similar dedication ceremony took place in Grand Rapids, MI, at the President Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. The stamp honoring the Nation's 38th President is available nationwide today, August 31, 2007.

"President Ford would be so grateful for the magnificent honor that the Postal Service has created in tribute to his decades of service to the American people," said Mrs. Betty Ford. "The stamp wonderfully portrays his strength, warmth, and compassion. My family and I are filled with pride and gratitude for this remarkable tribute to our beloved husband, father, and grandfather."

Mrs. Ford was joined at the McCallum Theatre ceremony by her children Jack Ford and Susan Ford Bales and by several of her grandchildren.

President and Mrs. Ford's son Michael Ford dedicated the stamp in Grand Rapids with U.S. Postal Service Executive Director Rosa Fulton. President Ford's brother, Richard A. Ford, was present at the Grand Rapids dedication.

"We owe President Ford an immense debt of gratitude," said Postmaster General Potter, "as a man who put his nation first; as a man who was guided by what he read in his heart, and as a man who succeeded in his goal to make this great government work for the good of all Americans."

The Postal Service produced 80 million 41-cent stamps in sheets of 20. Award winning stamp artist Michael J. Deas of Brooklyn Heights, NY, created the stamp under the direction of stamp designer Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, MD.

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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.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose primary mission is to support the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum, through historical exhibits, educational programs, conferences, research grants and awards. In fulfilling its mission, the Foundation seeks to honor the principles and values demonstrated by President Ford throughout his public service career. The Foundation also seeks to educate Americans about the unique history and significant events of the Ford presidency. Finally, the Foundation seeks to enhance public understanding of American history and government, particularly the presidency.