

Sept. 25, 2007

*usps.com/news  
Stamp Rel. 07-040A*

## Postal Service Brightens the Skies to Mark National Stamp Collecting Month With Polar Lights Stamps



**Note:** To download a 300 dpi image of the stamp, visit the 2007 Commemorative Stamp Program release link at <http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2007stamps/>

- What:** The U.S. Postal Service will issue a pane of 20 Polar Lights 41-cent commemorative postage stamps in two designs often known as auroras.
- Who:** H. Glen Walker, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President  
United States Postal Service  
Allen Kane, Director, Smithsonian National Postal Museum  
Cheryl Ganz, Acting Chief Curator for Philately, Smithsonian National Postal Museum
- When:** 10:30 a.m. ET, Monday, Oct. 1, 2007
- Where:** Smithsonian National Postal Museum  
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20013
- Background:** As part of the International Polar Year 2007-2008, the call is to bring attention to the role of polar research in global processes of these fascinating phenomena — polar lights. The “southern lights or aurora australis” and “northern lights or aurora borealis” are brilliant emissions of light. The polar lights are a luminous glow seen in the night sky at high latitudes surrounding the north and south magnetic poles. Throughout history the polar lights have inspired a colorful folklore; today they are the focus of many nations.
- USPS  
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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 cover its operating expenses. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$73 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.