

Postmaster General's Medal of Freedom

The Postmaster General's Medal of Freedom was created in 2001 to recognize outstanding individual contributions to the Postal Service.

The medal was designed by Dan Mihalko and Frank Papandrea, both postal employees, and is made of silver nickel and hand painted with blue and red accent paints. Benjamin Franklin, first Postmaster General under the Continental Congress, is featured on the front of the medal along with the words "Postmaster General Medal of Freedom." The Postal Service eagle and the words "United States Postal Service" are on the back.

The first recipients of the medal were Thomas L. Morris, Jr., and Joseph P. Curseen, Jr. Both men worked at the Brentwood mail processing facility in Washington, D.C., and both died in October 2001 of inhalation anthrax. The medals were presented to their widows during a memorial service held in their honor by the Postal Service on November 13, 2001.

The Postmaster General's Medal of Freedom honored Mr. Morris and Mr. Curseen for making the ultimate sacrifice as they served others. As Postmaster General Jack Potter presented the medals, he recognized the heroic contributions of Postal Service employees, saying, "Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night, nor winds of change, nor a nation challenged will stay them from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Ever."

After closing in 2001, the Brentwood facility reopened in December 2003 with a new name: The Joseph Curseen, Jr., and the Thomas Morris, Jr., Processing and Distribution Center. A large plaque on the building states:

We are poorer for their loss but richer for having been touched by these dedicated, hard-working heroes. We will never forget.



Thomas L. Morris Jr.



Joseph P. Curseen Jr.