2012 United States Postage Stamps

Spectrum Eagle
January 3
An eagle's profile is shown in this set of stamps to be used for presorted first-class mail. The strip of stamps is a sequence of varying shades of reds, yellows, greens, and blues. They are priced at 25 cents.

New Mexico Statehood
January 6
When Spanish missionaries arrived in present-day New Mexico in the 1500s, they found a region already settled by Pueblo and Navajo people. In 1848 New Mexico was ceded to the U.S. at the end of the U.S.-Mexican War. It wasn't until 1912 that New Mexico became the 47th state in the Union. The image on this stamp depicts the high desert, with junipers and piñon pines growing in the foreground. In the middle distance, the Rio Puerco flows through a gorge, while in the background two peaks known as Cerro de Santa Clara and Cerro de Guadalupe are silhouetted against a vast sky.

Glacier National Park
January 19
This international rate postage stamp showcases Logan Pass, the highest point in Montana's Glacier National Park. In the foreground, melting snow banks reveal a lush meadow dusted with wildflowers. Often described as one of the most stunning national parks in the United States, this park is a haven for wildlife with 277 species of birds and 67 species of mammals, including the bald eagle, wolverine, lynx, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and wolf. Glacier National Park was established on May 11, 1910.

Aloha Shirts
January 19
June 2
Five classic, colorful Hawaiian Aloha shirts are depicted on these stamps. Two of the stamps showcase surfers and their boards; one shows fossil fish, shells, and sea stars; another shows a tropical flower known as the bird of paradise; and one shows Kilauea, a volcano on the Big Island of Hawai‘i. Aloha shirts are often considered acceptable business attire in Hawai‘i, where the climate can make a suit and tie uncomfortable.

With 34,000 members in 100 countries, the 126-year-old American Philatelic Society is the largest, nonprofit society for stamp collectors in the free world. APS offers services and educational opportunities to broaden your enjoyment of the hobby and enhance your special collecting interests, whatever they may be. The APS is supported entirely by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of its publications and services.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Spectrum Eagle
January 3

New Mexico Statehood
January 6

Glacier National Park
Scenic American Landscapes
January 19

Aloha Shirts
January 19

June 2
2012 United States Postage Stamps

**Birds of Prey**
*January 20*

The northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, golden eagle, osprey, and northern harrier are featured on these unique Birds of Prey stamps. Also known as raptors, these birds are carnivorous, using their powerful talons to capture prey. Some hunt by day, and some by night on every continent except Antarctica. Their exceptionally keen eyesight allows them to see small objects in detail, even from a great distance. Raptors play an important role in maintaining the balance of nature.

**Checkerspot Butterfly**
*Butterfly Series*  
*January 20*

In 2010 the Postal Service began a line of stamps featuring butterflies. This year Maryland shared its official insect — the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly. The butterfly’s colors resemble those on George Calvert’s coat of arms, with orange and white spots forming a checkered pattern on black wings. (Calvert Lord Baltimore, helped found the colony of Maryland.) This stamp may be used for mailing large greeting cards or for first-class letters weighing up to 2 ounces.

**Wedding Cake**
*January 20*

The stamp art on this Wedding Cake stamp features a three-tier wedding cake topped with white flowers. The two-ounce mailing rate may be used for oversized cards, but especially adds a touch of beauty and romance to wedding correspondence. The Wedding Cake stamp, first issued in 2009 as part of the *Weddings* series, was reissued in 2012.

**Dogs at Work**
*January 20*

These Dogs at Work stamps show that dogs are more than “man’s best friend.” This guide dog is one of nearly 10,000 such dogs in the U.S. and Canada who serve as a set of eyes for the blind. The therapy dog, chosen for its friendly disposition, is shown visiting an elderly person on this stamp. This tracking dog is just one of many that work with police and military personnel — trained to detect drugs, guns, and explosives. Search and rescue dogs, such as the one depicted on this stamp, speed up search efforts, increasing the odds of survival for disaster victims.

**Lancaster County, Pennsylvania**
*Scenic American Landscapes Series*  
*January 20*

Part of the *Scenic American Landscapes* series, this stamp captures the breathtaking landscape of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The Old Order Amish have maintained their simple lifestyles and traditions. Visitors are attracted to the area by their horse-drawn buggies, traditional lifestyle, and pristine farms.

**Year of the Dragon**
*Lunar New Year Series*  
*January 23*

This stamp celebrates the Chinese zodiac’s Year of the Dragon. By tradition, dragons are not feared, but are considered magical — welcome symbols of renewed hope for the future. Skilled teams of dancers manipulate colorful dragon figures, such as the one depicted in the stamp art, before delighted crowds at the Lunar New Year celebrations.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

- **Birds of Prey**
  - January 20

- **Checkerspot Butterfly**
  - Butterfly Series
  - January 20

- **Wedding Cake**
  - January 20

- **Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Scenic American Landscapes**
  - Series
  - January 20

- **Dogs at Work**
  - January 20

- **Year of the Dragon**
  - Lunar New Year Series
  - January 23
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Weather Vanes
January 20
At one time in history weather vanes were used to observe and predict the weather. These stamps feature photographs of five weather vanes made in the United States during the 19th century. All five intriguing examples of American folk art belong to the collection of the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont.

Bonsai Trees
January 23
Bonsai masters may prune, wire, or scrape the bark on trees to train them into the desired style of bonsai. These five stamps depict common styles of bonsai. The first stamp shows a Sierra juniper in semi-cascade style, the second is in an informal upright style, the third is a formal upright style. The fourth stamp depicts a multiple-trunk style, while the fifth and final stamp shows a cascade style. Bonsai plants may live a hundred years or more.

John H. Johnson
Black Heritage Series
January 31
Perhaps the greatest minority entrepreneur in American history, this stamp honors John H. Johnson. Johnson's business empire included magazines, radio stations, cosmetics, and more. In 1966 he was awarded the Spingarn Medal; in 1972 he was named publisher of the year; and in 1996 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. John H. Johnson once joined Vice President Richard Nixon on a goodwill tour of Africa and served as a Special United States Ambassador for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

Love Ribbons
February 2
The USPS features Love Ribbons on this stamp. Ribbons are used to adorn all types of gifts — floral arrangements, boxes of candy, birthday gifts, holiday gifts, and more — all showing emotions of caring. The satin ribbons depicted here spell out the word “love” in an elegant script.

Heart Health
February 9
This stamp, with its bright yellow sun disc, a leafy green tree icon, and a blue swirl of a sky, raises public awareness about the importance of maintaining a healthy heart. The figure on the stamp has a full red heart and a large red apple at the figure's feet represents a well-balanced diet. Quitting smoking, managing stress, getting enough sleep, and exercising are important lifestyle changes to lower the risk of coronary heart disease.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Weather Vanes
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John H. Johnson
Black Heritage Series
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Bonsai Trees
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Love Ribbons
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February 9
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Sailboats
January 22
The first recreational sailboats were built by the Dutch in the 1600s. Today there are more than 1.5 million sailboats in the United States alone. The Sailboat stamped cards show a moored sailboat that may be used by a family spending the day on the water, an athlete ready to compete in a race, a cruiser sailing from port to port, or perhaps an adventurer preparing to cross the ocean.

Purple Martin Stamped Envelope
January 23
The stamp art on this envelope shows a favorite backyard bird, the purple martin. This bird lives in suburban America, eating insects such as flies, wasps, and stinkbugs. The purple martin is the largest swallow in North America.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Sailboats
January 22

Purple Martin Stamped Envelope
January 23
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Arizona Statehood  
February 14
The United States acquired the present-day land of Arizona following the U.S.-Mexican War in 1848. Fifteen years later it was named a U.S. territory. Finally, in 1912, Arizona joined the Union and became the 48th state in the United States. This stamp, featuring the colorful sandstone rock formations of Sedona, commemorates the one-hundred year anniversary of the state.

Sunshine Skyway Bridge  
February 28
This stamp and the pre-printed priority mail envelope celebrate the Sunshine Skyway Bridge that spans Tampa Bay, linking St. Petersburg and Brandenton, Florida. The 42 brilliant yellow cables look like sails, while their two supporting pylons resemble masts rising from the water. The bridge is set 190 feet above the Bay, allowing for unhindered water navigation into Tampa.

Danny Thomas  
February 16
This stamp honors Danny Thomas (1912–1991) who was the star of the television show Make Room for Daddy. He also produced television shows, such as the hits The Andy Griffith Show, The Dick Van Dyke Show, and The Mod Squad. In 1962, in gratitude for prayers answered, Thomas opened St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where children receive treatment for catastrophic diseases regardless of race, religion, or a family’s ability to pay.

Carmel Mission  
February 28
The Carmel Mission is depicted on this stamp that honors 250 years of California history. Founded in 1770, Mission San Carlos Borroméo del Río Carmelo — Carmel Mission — was the second in a chain of 21 Spanish missions founded along the California coast. Father Junipero Serra (1713–1784), founder of the California mission system, is buried at Carmel Mission.

Cherry Blossoms Centennial  
March 24
In 1912 the city of Tokyo gave the city of Washington D.C. more than 3,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees as a token of friendship between the two cities. These stamps, showing a panoramic view of the trees in blossom, commemorate the centennial of that gift. The stamp on the left shows the Washington Monument in the background, while the Jefferson Memorial is shown on the stamp to the right.

Four Flags  
February 22
These stamps were issued to continue the Postal Service’s tradition of honoring the United States flag. The words “Freedom, Liberty, Equality, and Justice” represent important aspects in the development of the Nation. Congress passed legislation in 1818 stating that the number of stars on the flag should match the number of states in the Union. It also specified that new stars would be added to the flag on the July 4 after a state’s admission. The current flag’s 50th star was added on July 4, 1960, after Hawai’i became a state on August 21, 1959.

William H. Johnson  
American Treasures Series  
April 11
Harlem Renaissance painter William H. Johnson (1901–1970) was one of the leading African-American artists. He studied at the National Academy of Design in New York City, and went on to receive the gold medal for distinguished achievement in fine arts from the William E. Harmon Foundation. Johnson is recognized with this stamp — Flowers — the eleventh issue in the American Treasures series.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Arizona Statehood
February 14

Danny Thomas
February 16

Sunshine Skyway Bridge
Release Date: February 28

William H. Johnson
American Treasures series
April 11

Carmel Mission
February 28

Cherry Blossoms Centennial
March 24
2012 United States Postage Stamps

20th Century Poets
April 21

Elizabeth Bishop's (1911-1979) poems are known for their observations and detail. She sometimes eluded to her personal life, while at other times she presented contradictory subjects. Bishop was the Poet Laureate of the United States (1949–1950), Pulitzer Prize winner for Poetry (1956), Neustadt International Prize for Literature winner (1976), and the National Book Award winner (1970).

In 1991, Iosif Aleksandrovich (Joseph) Brodsky (1940–1996) became the first foreign-born poet to be appointed United States Poet Laureate. Many of his poems reflect his loneliness, a result of serving a five-year term of hard labor for failure to “work honestly for the good of the motherland [the Soviet Union]”. In 1987 Brodsky won the Nobel Prize in Literature.


Although Edward Estlin (E. E.) Cummings (1894-1962) often manipulated the rules of grammar, punctuation, rhyme, and meter to create poems that resembled modernist paintings, much of his work is quite traditional. His poetry often deals with love and nature, or the how a person fits into the world around him. Cummings won the Bollingen Prize in Poetry in 1958.

Asa Bundey Sheffey (Robert Hayden) (1913-1980) wrote poetry dealing with topics ranging from fatherly love to loneliness to political matters. In 1976 he became the first African-American to become a Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress. Hayden was elected to the American Academy of Poets in 1975.

Denise Levertov (1923-1997) hoped her political and war-themed poetry would inspire change, especially during the Vietnam era. After being converted to Christianity in 1984, many of her poems dealt with religion and linking culture and community through Christianity. Among her awards, Levertov received the Robert Frost Medal for “distinguished lifetime service to American poetry” and the Lannan Award "to honor both established and emerging writers whose work is of exceptional quality”.

Sylvia Plath's (1932-1963) poems include a variety of topics relaying the real emotions we can encounter throughout the wide expanse of the human experience. Her poetry is highly imaginative and strikes a cord for many readers. In 1982, Plath posthumously won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Theodore Roethke (1908-1963) created thoughtful poems distinguished by personal expressions of feeling and emotion, and the use of metaphors. He is known for his poems about the natural world, using events of his childhood for the themes of many of his writings. In 1954 Roethke was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, and won the National Book Award for Poetry in 1959 and again in 1965.

The poems of Wallace Stevens (1879-1955) explore the relationship between the human imagination and definitive reality. His writings vary from very serious to highly comic. Stevens received the National Book Award for Poetry in 1951 and again in 1955. He was also won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1955.

William Carlos Williams (1883-1963) was a doctor who often typed poems between seeing patients. His works are associated with the American Modernist movement, a liberation from what he saw as “the worn-out language of the British and European culture.” In 1950 Williams won the first National Book Award for Poetry. In 1963, he was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.
20th Century Poets
April 21
2012 United States Postage Stamps

The Civil War: 1862
April 24

In 2011 the USPS began issuing a series of stamps to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The issues for 2012 were the Capture of New Orleans and the Battle of Antietam.

New Orleans, Louisiana, the largest city in the Confederacy during the American Civil War, provided a port for the export of Southern-produced trade goods. The Union captured the city in 1862, affecting southern trade, finance, and shipbuilding.

Antietam was the first major battle to take place on Union soil. It was the bloodiest single-day battle, with about 23,000 dead, wounded and missing. Although there was no definitive winner, this battle gave the Union troops a boost in morale and delayed foreign recognition of the Confederate states.

José Ferrer
Distinguished American Series
April 26
José Vicente Ferrer de Otero y Cintrón (José Ferrer) (1912–1992) is honored on the 14th stamp in the Distinguished Americans series. He directed films; wrote, directed, produced, and starred in plays; composed music for stage and screen; acted on radio; appeared in several television series; and performed in more than 60 movies. In 1950, Ferrer was the first Hispanic actor to win an Academy Award.

Louisiana Statehood
April 30
This stamp features a setting sun casting shadows of cypress trees across the dark water of Flat Lake, Louisiana. President Thomas Jefferson bought most of the land that is now called Louisiana from France in 1803 and the following year Congress created the Territory of Orleans. On April 30, 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state to join the Union.

Great Film Directors
May 23
This set of stamps honors four great filmmakers who entertained audiences for many years.
Frank Russell Capra, born Francesco Rosario Capra (1897–1991), directed his first film in 1925 — a one-reel silent film, cast in two days, with only amateur actors. He went on to win three Academy Awards for Best Director, two for Outstanding Production, and one for Best Documentary.
John Martin “Jack” Feeney (John Ford) (1894–1973) began his filming career in 1914 as a stuntman and occasional actor. He quickly rose in the ranks, directing more than 140 films. Ford won four Academy Awards for Best Director, and one each for Best Documentary; Best Documentary, Short Subjects; and for Best Motion Picture.
John Marcellus Huston (1906–1987) was a screenwriter, actor, and film director. He wrote the screenplays, often using human predicaments or adapting novels, for many of the 37 films he directed. Huston won Academy Awards for Directing, for Writing Adapted Screenplay, and for the Best Adapted Screenplay.
Samuel “Billy” Wilder (1906–2002) was a producer, screenwriter, artist, and journalist. He directed more than 60 films in his 50-year filming career. Wilder was nominated eight times for the Academy Award for Best Director, winning twice. He also won Awards for Best Writing, Screenplay; Best Writing, Story and Screenplay; Best Writing, Story and Screenplay, Written Directly for the Screen; and Best Motion Picture.

Bobcat
June 1
A very proficient hunter, the Bobcat, is shown on this stamp. This cat can be found across the United States — from the deserts and prairies to the forests and mountains. The bobcat often lives in dens, caves, or among rocks, usually hunting in the late evening or early morning hours.

Pixar Films: Mail a Smile
June 1
Pixar Animation Studios is responsible for many of the innovations in computer animation. These Mail a Smile stamps feature beloved characters from five Disney•Pixar movies. Featured this year are Flik and Dot from A Bug’s Life; Bob Parr (Mr. Incredible) and Dashiell “Dash” Parr from The Incredibles; Nemo and Squirt from Finding Nemo; Woody, Bullseye, and Jessie from Toy Story 2; and Boo, Mike Wazowski, and James P. “Sulley” Sullivan from Monsters, Inc.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

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Pixar Films: Mail a Smile
June 1
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Bicycling
June 7

Bicycling is one of the most popular outdoor activities in this country. But it's not just fun — it's also good for the environment (cuts down on traffic congestion, fuel consumption, and vehicle emissions) and for you (lowers the risk of obesity and heart disease, reduces stress, and improves muscle tone and strength). So climb on! Celebrate this healthy, affordable, and eco-friendly means of transportation with these striking *Bicycling* stamps: a young child learning to ride, a commuter pedaling to work, a road racer intent on the finish line, and an airborne BMX rider.

Innovative Choreographers
July 28

Four influential choreographers who changed the art of dance are depicted on these USPS issues.

Angela Isadora Duncan (1877–1927), an American dancer known for her effortless style of dance. Her innovative dance technique focused on natural movement. Duncan received worldwide acclaim, although mixed critical reviews, for her manner of dance.

José Arcadio Limón (1908–1972) was a pioneer in the field of modern dance and choreography, elevating the importance of the male dancer. His technique emphasizes the natural rhythms of fall and recovery and the interplay between weight and weightlessness.

Katherine Mary Dunham (1909–2006) was the founder of one of the first and the only self-supported African-American dance troupe in the 1940s. She was the first choreographer to combine Caribbean and African dance elements into a formal technique.

Robert Louis “Bob” Fosse (1927–1987) directed and choreographed musicals on both stage and screen. He developed a jazz dance style that was recognized by the use of turned-in knees, sideways shuffling, and rolled shoulders.

Celebrate Scouting
June 9

This Girl Scout stamp is a “sister” stamp to the Boy Scout stamp issued in 2010. It features a large silhouette of a girl with binoculars looking into the distance; the scene within the silhouette features a girl in mid-stride with a walking stick, shorts, and backpack on a serious summer trek. Originally called “The Girl Guides Association,” the Girl Scouts of the USA has offered opportunities to study ecology, science, and technology, and to find ways to further protect the planet.

Miles Davis and Edith Fiaf
June 12

The USPS partnered with La Poste of France to celebrate music — the international language.

Miles Dewey Davis III (1926–1991) was a great American trumpeter, being a leader in the developments in bebop, cool jazz, hard bop, modal jazz, and jazz fusion. He was loved in France, where he was made Chevalier in the Legion of Honor and was awarded the Grande Médaille de Vermeil by the city of Paris (the equivalent of making him an honorary citizen).

Édith Giovanna Gassion (Edith Piaf, 1915–1963), a French singer who became internationally known, is seen standing on stage in her signature black dress. Piaf often sang ballads that reflected her life, moving audiences to tears with her soulful delivery.

Edgar Rice Burroughs
August 17

Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875–1950) was one of the most popular authors of the early 1900s. He wrote more than 70 books, including historical fiction, soft science fiction, westerns, and adventure. Burroughs’s Tarzan stories have been published in books, newspapers, magazines, and comic strips and were made into movies and even a television series.

The War of 1812: USS Constitution
August 18

This stamp — The War of 1812: USS Constitution — is the first in a series to be issued by the Postal Service commemorating this “forgotten conflict.” On June 18, 1812, the United States declared war on Great Britain for several reasons including the restricting U.S. trade with Europe, the forcing of U.S. merchant sailors to serve in the Royal Navy, and their support of the American Indian tribes against U.S. expansion. This stamp portrays “Old Ironsides,” a wooden-hulled, three-masted heavy frigate of the United States Navy — the victor against Great Britain’s mighty navy.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

- **Bicycling**
  - June 7

- **Celebrate Scouting**
  - June 9

- **Miles Davis and Edith Fiaf**
  - June 12

- **Innovative Choreographers**
  - July 28

- **Edgar Rice Burroughs**
  - August 17

- **The War of 1812: USS Constitution**
  - August 18
Stamps: Major League Baseball All-Stars
Release Date: July 20
The Postal Service salutes Joe DiMaggio, Larry Doby, Willie Stargell, and Ted Williams, the best of baseball.

Theodore Samuel “Ted” Williams (1918–2002) was one of the greatest hitters in Major League Baseball. His entire Major League career was with the Boston Red Sox (1939–1960, less 3 full seasons and 2 partial seasons when he served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a fighter-bomber pilot.) Williams was elected to the American League All-Star team 19 times, was twice chosen the American League Most Valuable Player, led the league in batting six times, and won the Triple Crown (best batting average, most home runs, and most runs batted in) in 1942 and again in 1947.

Larry Doby (1923–2003) began his baseball career at the age of 17, playing for the Newark Eagles. Following a stint in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to the Eagles, helping them win the Negro League World Series. In 1947 he became the first black player to join the American League. Doby was elected to the American League All-Star team seven times, was selected as the Negro Leagues champion in 1946 and the World Series champion in 1948, was the American League home run champion twice and once led the American League with runs batted in.

Wilver Dornell “Willie” Stargell (1940–2001) is noted for promoting harmony among a multicultural team — the 1979 Pittsburgh Pirates — known as “The Family.” (Stargell himself was of Seminole Indian as well as African-American descent.) He joined the Pirates in 1962, and spent his entire Major League Baseball career with that team. Stargell was elected to the National League All-Star team seven times, was a two-time World Series champion, and was the National League and the World Series Most Valuable Player in 1979.

Joseph Paul “Joe” DiMaggio (1914–1999) played his entire 13-year career for the New York Yankees. During his time with the team, the Yankees won ten American League pennants and nine World Series championships. DiMaggio was selected as the American League's Most Valuable Player three times. Joe DiMaggio is the only player to be selected for the American League All-Star game in every season he played in the Major Leagues.

Stamps: Flags of Our Nation VI
Release Date: August 16
This set of Flags of Our Nation stamps represent Texas, Utah, Vermont, U.S. Virgin Island, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the Stars and Stripes. It completes the series that includes fifty stamps featuring state flags, four depicting the Stars and Stripes, and one each for the territories of American Samoa and Guam, the commonwealths of Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In addition to the flag art, each stamp design includes artwork that provides a “snapshot view” of the state or other area represented by that flag.
The Texas flag, showing the “Lone Star” dates back to the Republic of Texas. Snapshot art depicts a field of cotton, a major cash crop in Texas.
Utah's flag features the state seal; the beehive represents hard work and industry. The art shows a blooming cactus and a highly stylized arch formation in the background.
The dark blue Vermont flag depicts the state coat of arms with a pine tree at the center. Snapshot art depicts a great horned owl.
The white flag of the U.S. Virgin Islands shows a simplified United States coat of arms. Snapshot art features a leaping sailfish.
The blue field of Virginia's flag features its coat of arms. The art shows three ships in the background, representing those that brought English settlers to Jamestown in 1607.
Washington's dark green flag depicts the state seal in the center. Snapshot art evokes the state's evergreen forests.
The white field of West Virginia's flag includes the state coat of arms and a wreath of rhododendron. A flock of wild turkeys is shown in the snapshot art.
The Wisconsin flag features the state coat of arms and “1848,” the year the state joined the Union. Snapshot art depicts dairy cattle.
The state seal and a silhouette of a bison appear on Wyoming's blue flag. Snapshot art features two bighorn sheep.
Snapshot art for the Stars and Stripes depicts “the fruited plain” from the lyrics of “America the Beautiful,” by Katharine Lee Bates.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Major League Baseball All-Stars
July 20

Flags of Our Nation VI
August 16
Purple Heart Medal
September 4
This 2012 issue is a redesign of the 2011 Purple Heart with Ribbon Stamp. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in action. In 1782 George Washington established a badge of distinction which consisted of a heart made of purple cloth. Although not continued after the Revolutionary War, the decoration was reinstated in 1932. The redesigned decoration consists of a purple heart of metal bordered by gold, suspended from a purple and white ribbon.

O. Henry
Literary Arts Series
September 11
This stamp commemorates the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Sydney Porter (1862–1910), pen name O. Henry. O. Henry was a writer known for his short stories, written with wit, a skillful unfolding plot, and often a surprise twist ending. The Literary Arts series was begun in 1979; O. Henry is the 28th writer to be honored in the series.

Holy Family
October 10
The Postal Service continues its tradition of issuing religious Christmas stamps with this portrayal of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Their flight can be seen on stained glass windows, frescoes, sculptures, wall hangings, woodcarvings, and more. This stamp shows Joseph leading a donkey that carries Mary and Jesus, guided by a shining star.

Santa and Sleigh
October 13
This set of four holiday stamps shows Santa Claus, riding in his sleigh overflowing with toys. His eight tiny reindeer are preparing to land on a housetop so Santa can slide down the chimney with his bag of goodies.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Purple Heart Medal
September 4

O. Henry
Literary Arts Series
September 11

Holy Family
October 10

Santa and Sleigh
October 13
Earthscapes
October 1

The Earthscapes stamps offer an opportunity to see the world from high above the planet's surface.

The top row shows natural images — glaciers and icebergs, a volcanic eruption, a geothermal spring, fog drifting over sandstone towers, a glacier in Alaska, and an inland marsh.

The center row shows agricultural products — salt evaporation ponds, logs on the way to a sawmill, center-pivot irrigation, a cherry orchard, and cranberries to be harvested.

The bottom row depicts urban settings — a residential subdivision, a floating barge, a railroad roundhouse, skyscraper apartments, and a highway interchange.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Earthscapes
October 1
Lady Bird Johnson
November 30

These stamps celebrate the centennial of Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor Johnson’s (1912–2007) birth and her legacy of preserving and beautifying America. In addition to the stamp portraying Johnson, there are five stamps on the sheet adapted from those originally issued in 1966 and 1969.

The top stamp, showing crab apple trees in full bloom, reads “Plant for more Beautiful Streets.”

The second stamp shows daffodils along the Potomac River with the Washington Monument in the background and reads “Plant for more Beautiful Parks.”

The third stamp reads “Plant for a more Beautiful America,” and depicts the Jefferson Memorial in the background seen through branches of flowering cherry blossoms. “Plant for more Beautiful Highways” is written on the fourth stamp, with its scene of yellow and blue wildflowers growing along a highway.

The bottom stamp shows pink and red azaleas and white tulips with the U.S. Capitol in the distance and reads “Plant for more Beautiful Cities.”
Lady Bird Johnson
November 30

“For the environment after all is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become.”
Waves of Color
December 1

The Waves of Color stamps are issued for the convenience of postal patrons and to lend a contemporary appearance to packages and large envelopes. As the denominations increase so does the size of the stamps.
2012 United States Postage Stamps

Waves of Color
December 1
The American Philatelic Society

This album may not include every issue. Use the blank pages to add stamps to your album.

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