2015 United States Postage Stamps

War of 1812: Battle of New Orleans January 8
The U.S. Postal Service started the year by concluding its three-year series of single stamps marking the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The Battle of New Orleans was the final major battle of the war. Major Gen. Andrew Jackson is credited with stopping the British from seizing New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi River, a major strategic position. The battle, most of which was fought after the British signed the Treaty of Ghent, was a series of engagements over three weeks, ending January 18, 1815, when the British withdrew. The war officially ended February 16, 1815, when the U.S. ratified the treaty.

$1 and $2 Patriotic Waves January
The series of computer-generated designs featuring wavy lines saw two new additions, both in red, white, and blue. The first stamps in the series were issued in 2012.

$1 stamp is dominated by blue lines, which intersect with red lines on a white background in an abstract pattern reminiscent of billowing flags. USA, the dollar sign and numeral 1 appear in the open display area at bottom right. It was issued January 12 in Kansas City, Missouri. The $2 stamp is larger than the $1 stamp with the red lines dominant. Again, the denomination is at bottom right. It was issued January 30 in Norcross, Georgia.

Folk Art Eagle Envelope Bank Swallow Envelope January 12
First issued in 2013, the Bank Swallow Envelope has been reissued in several sized window and standard format water-activated gum and pressure sensitive adhesive envelopes. They are the same design as before, but with a different manufacturer logo and identification, reflecting the change in ownership of Ashton Potter, which manufactures the envelopes.

The bald eagle, a United States symbol, has appeared on U.S. postal stamps and stationery since the earliest days of the postal system. The stamp art, designed by Richard Sheaff, is a photograph of a carved American eagle wall plaque, made of pinewood, by an unknown carver. The eagle carries two U.S. flags.

The Bank Swallow is the smallest swallow in North America. Like all swallows, bank swallows are agile songbirds that specialize in catching insects in midair. They use their beaks and feet to dig burrows in sandy banks overlooking lakes and streams where they build their nests.

With 31,000 members, the 130-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 by membership dues, gifts, and the sale of its publications and services.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

- **War of 1812:**
  - Battle of New Orleans
  - January 8

- **$1 and $2 Patriotic Waves**
  - Waves of Color series
  - January

- **Folk Art Eagle Envelope**
  - Bank Swallow Envelope
  - January 12
2015 United States Postage Stamps

**Forever Hearts**
Love series
January 22

These side-by-side (se-tenant) Love stamps depict the ancient association between eternal love and the heart. Lacy lettering spells out the word "Forever" – white lettering on a red background on one stamp; red on white for the other. Artist Jessica Hische created the lettering that forms the heart, first drawing her designs by hand and then finishing the stamp art digitally. The Love series began in 1973.

**Year of the Ram**
Lunar New Year series
February 7

This forever stamp coincided with the Year of the Ram, which began February 19.

New York artist Kim Mak presents a design featuring a traditional form of celebration, a wooden candy tray, known as the chuen-hop or “Tray of Togetherness,” which is filled with dried fruits, candies, and other treats to provide a sweet beginning to the new year.

The design incorporates two elements from the previous series of Lunar New Year stamps: the intricate cut-paper design of a ram by artist Clarence Lee, seen at top left, and just below that, the Chinese character for “ram,” drawn in grass-style calligraphy by the late Lau Bun. The images on the lid of the tray were inspired by a Ming Dynasty cabinet.

**Robert Robinson Taylor**
Black Heritage series
February 12

Architect and educator Robert Robinson Taylor (1868-1942) spent much of his career at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he supervised the design and construction of the campus while also overseeing the school's programs in industrial education and the building trades. He was the first African American to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and likely was the country's first academically-trained black architect. This stamp features a photograph of Taylor taken circa 1890, when he was a 22-year-old student at MIT. It is the 38th entry in the Black Heritage series.

**Vintage Rose and Tulip**
Wedding series
February 14

These matching stamps are designed specifically to accommodate traditional wedding invitations. The Tulip's 70-cent postage pays for the invitation and RSVP envelope, which can be franked with the forever Rose stamp. These engraved stamps are the latest in the Wedding series. Jeanne Greco created the stylized black-and-white illustration of a rose, with a small pink heart. The artwork features details from an engraved plate from the early 1700s.

**Stars & Stripes**
February 27

Three stylized patriotic nondenominated coil stamps pay the presorted standard rate, 10 cents at the time of issue. Stamp illustrator Nancy Stahl used her own flag as the model, creating a dot pattern to create the triptych image of an undulating flag over the three stamps.

**Bobcat**
February 21

This 1-cent self-stick definitive coil includes a microprinted “USPS” atop the bobcat’s leg. Plate number P1111 appears on every 27th stamp. A moisture-activated version of the stamp was issued in 2013.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

- **Forever Hearts**
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  February 21

- **Stars & Stripes**
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Martín Ramirez
March 26
Details of artwork from larger pieces by Martín Ramirez appear on five stamps issued in panes of 20. Ramirez (1895-1963) was born in Mexico and moved in 1925 to the United States. In 1931, he was admitted to a psychiatric hospital and remained incarcerated nearly the rest of his life in California mental facilities. Suffering from chronic depression and schizophrenia, Ramirez spent much of his time creating large drawings and collages. His nearly 300 works, considered by critics as "outsider art" because of his lack of formal training, often contain found objects, such as scrap paper. He often created his artwork while crouched beneath a table, possibly finding it a safe place from other violent inmates.

Ferns
March 27
Ten new coil forever stamps, two each of five designs, were issued using similar designs to the 2014 Ferns stamps. All include the word "Forever," unlike those issued in 2014 that carried a 49-cent denomination. Five of the new stamps, which are from coils of 3,000, carry a 2015 year date. Stamps from a coil of 10,000 carry a 2014 year date.

Water Lilies
March 30
The forever stamps feature photographs by Cindy Dyer. On a hot mid-July day, Dyer photographed the water flowers while visiting Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens National Park in Washington, D.C.. All the photos were shot with a Nikon D300 and a 105mm macro lens. The stamps were produced in double-sided panes of 20.

From Me to You
April 1
The From Me to You forever stamp with a simple, bold design devoid of any objects was issued in panes of 20 to promote national letter-writing month. In addition to the stamps, the pane included extra stickers in the selvage meant to be placed onto letters. These stickers include images of little envelopes, and phrases like “happy birthday” and “miss you,” and “X's and O's.”

Civil War: 1865
Civil War Sesquicentennial series
April 9
Two forever stamps wrap up the five-year series dedicated to America's great struggle of the 1860s. The stamps show the April 1, 1865 Battle of Five Forks and Robert E. Lee's surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

The Five Forks stamp is based on a circa 1885 painting by Paul Dominique Philippoteaux. The Appomattox stamp uses an 1895 painting by Thomas Nast titled “Peace in Union.”

The Battle of Five Forks, fought just southwest of Petersburg, Virginia, was one of the last major battles of the Civil War. General Philip Sheridan led a Union force of 22,000, of which less than 1,000 were killed. General George Pickett led the Confederate force of 10,000, which suffered about one-third casualties.

Grant had surrounded Lee and his fleeing soldiers at the small town in Virginia, forcing the final surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, the South's most effective military force. The two exchanged several notes starting on April 7 before agreeing to final terms. The formal meeting and surrender took place in the home of Wilmer McLean.

The stamps appear in the same format as the previous eight stamps in the series, on double-sided panes of 12 with a decorative selvage. U.S. Postal Service art director Phil Jordan designed all 10 stamps in the series.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Ferns
March 27

Water Lilies
March 30

Civil War: 1865
Civil War Sesquicentennial series
April 9
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Maya Angelou
April 7
This forever commemorative pays tribute to the writer and poet Maya Angelou (1928-2014) and was issued as a pane of 12 with a special header. Angelou has been hailed as one of American Literature's most dynamic voices of the 20th century. Her notable works include: “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” and a poetry collection, “Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water ’Fore I Diiie.” In 2011, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The stamp uses a detail from a photo-realistic painting created by Ross Rossin. Much media attention was given the stamp after critics pointed out that the quote on it did not originate from the acclaimed poet. Stamp designers defended the quote – “A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song” – noting that Angelou used it often throughout her life.

Gifts of Friendship
April 10
The Gifts of Friendship stamps were a joint issue with Japan with both countries’ issues featuring similar designs. The stamps mark the 100th anniversary of a gift of 50 dogwood trees from the U.S. to Japan in 1915. Former President William Howard Taft sent the trees as a thank you for Japan's 1912 gift of 3,020 cherry trees. The stamps feature blooming trees around iconic landmarks: the U.S. Capitol and Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and Japan's National Diet Building and a clock tower in Tokyo.

The U.S. stamps are formatted in a self-adhesive pane of 12 with decorative selvage. The Japanese stamps were issued as a moisture-activated pane of 10.

Special Olympics World Games
May 9
This forever stamp features the official logo of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games against an orange background gradient. The logo for the games, held in the summer in Los Angeles, represents the “courage, determination and joy of our athletes,” said Patrick Mcclenahan, president and chief executive officer for the games.

Missing Children
May 18
The Forget-Me-Not Help Find Missing Children forever stamp is sweet and poignant. Using the bunch of purple forget-me-not flowers on one side and a single flower to the left seemed to strike the exact mood for the stamp, according to the stamp's art director, Ethel Kessler.

Medal of Honor: Vietnam War
May 25
The Medal of Honor: Vietnam War stamps are within a folded prestige folio pane of 24 with decorative selvage that include photographs of 28 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. The Army and Navy medals were issued in 2013 for World War II recipients and in 2014 for Korean War recipients. The Air Force Medal stamp is new, having not been awarded until 1965. These are all new stamps with different year dates in the stamps’ margins.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Maya Angelou
April 7

Gifts of Friendship
April 10

Special Olympics World Games
May 9

Missing Children
May 18

Medal of Honor: Vietnam War
May 25
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly June 1
The definitive, issued in panes of 20, pays the first-class non-machineable surcharge, 71 cents at the time of issue. It can be used on non-standard types of envelopes that cannot easily be read by Postal Department scanning machines. The stamp continues a butterfly series that started in 2010 and includes the 64-cent Monarch, and 70-cent Great Spangled Fritillary.

Penguins June 1
A pair of emperor penguins grace an additional ounce definitive, paying the second ounce of a first-class letter. The emperor penguin is the largest of the penguins and its habitat is the frigid Antarctic. The non-denominated stamp sold for 22 cents when released. The stamps come in a pane of 20 and coil of 100.

Vintage Tulip, Wedding Cake and Yes I Do Wedding series (reissues) June 1
The increase in the additional ounce rate by a penny, from 21 cents to 22 cents, caused the earlier-released 70-cent Tulip stamp to be obsolete. The new issue uses the same design, but instead of a denomination, it reads Two Ounce, thus eliminating the need to redesign this stamp whenever there is a rate change.

The stamp is intended “to accommodate the weight of heavy invitations for weddings and other celebrations, greeting cards, and mailings such as small gifts that require extra postage,” the USPS said.

In addition, two previously issued second-ounce Wedding stamps – the Yes I Do (first issued in 2013) and Wedding Cake (first issued in 2009) – also were reissued as Two Ounce stamps.

Flannery O'Connor Literary Arts series June 5
Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964) was born in Savannah, Georgia. She penned two novels, 32 short stories and numerous essays and commentaries during her short lifetime. Her stories often reflected her own Roman Catholic faith and frequently examined questions of morality and ethics. O'Connor’s “Complete Stories” won the 1972 U.S. National Book Award for Fiction. This three-ounce stamp, printed in a pane of 20, sold for 93 cents when issued.

Summer Harvest July 11
Colorful designs in the style of vintage produce advertising grace the Summer Harvest forever stamps depicting watermelons, sweet corn, cantaloupes, and tomatoes. Bold, vibrant fruit and vegetable labels once found on produce crates inspired the design, said artist Michael Doret. The stamps were produced in double sided panes of 20.
Coastal Birds
June 1

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly
June 1

Penguins
June 1

Vintage Tulip, Wedding Cake and Yes I Do
Wedding series (reissues)
June 1

Flannery O’Connor
Literary Arts series
June 5

Summer Harvest
July 11
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Fanciful Flowers Postal Card
July 31
Artist Cathie Bleck used a scratchboard and clay board process to create the design on this Fanciful Flowers Postal Card, which features lilies and a bee. At the time of issuance, the card sold for 39 cents, 35 cents to pay for the postage and 4 cents for the card.

U.S. Coast Guard
August 4
A modern ship with a historic look and a rescue helicopter appear on a commemorative honoring the 100th anniversary of the modern branch and name of the U.S. Coast Guard. The stamp also marks the 225th anniversary of President George Washington signing a law formally establishing the concept of a coast guard. The ship is the cutter Eagle and the helicopter is an MH-65 Dolphin.

Elvis Presley
Music Icons series
August 12
Elvis Presley (1935-1977) was an American singer, actor and icon known simply as “The King.” Born in Tupelo, Mississippi, and raised during his teen years in Memphis, Tennessee, Presley quickly came to the forefront of popular American music after he made his first recording in 1954 for Sun Records. Combining his gospel roots with country music and rock and roll, his music quickly shot up the charts. His numerous top singles included “Don’t Be Cruel,” “Heartbreak Hotel,” “Love Me Tender,” and “Are You Lonesome Tonight.” He appeared in more than 30 movies.

The stamp features Presley in a 1955 black and white photograph taken by William Speer. It is the sixth in the Music Icon series. All the souvenir sheets are designed to look like a record album.

Ingrid Bergman
Legends of Hollywood series
August 20
The acclaimed Swedish actress, Ingrid Bergman, appears on a forever stamp that is a joint issue with her native Sweden. Bergman (1915-1982), who won three Academy Awards, is known for her intelligent dramatic roles in such films as Casablanca (1942), Gaslight (1944), Notorious (1946), and Anastasia (1956). The stamp is the 19th in the Legends of Hollywood series.

The countries’ stamps are similar, both using the same Laszlo Willinger photograph for the designs, but they are different sizes.

World Stamp Show – NY 2016
August 20
Two forever stamps promoting the 2016 international stamp show scheduled for 2016 in New York City were issued at the American Philatelic Society’s STAMPShow in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The same design was used for the stamps, one red and one blue. The stamps appear alternately on sheets of 20. The designs show “intricate patterns of lines and ornamentation inspired by the U.S. Newspaper and Periodical stamps of 1865,” according to the U.S. Postal Service.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Fanciful Flowers Postal Card
July 31

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Ingrid Bergman
Legends of Hollywood series
August 20

World Stamp Show – NY 2016
August 20
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Spectrum Eagle
September 2
The six nondenominated Spectrum Eagle coil stamps, sold for 25 cents upon their release, use the same artwork as those issued in 2012 by CCL Label Inc. But CCL Label stopped producing stamps for the U.S. Postal Service and these were printed by Ashton Potter. The presorted first-class stamps come in coils of 10,000 and include microprinting and a 2015 margin date.

Neon Celebrate
September 9
A near repeat of the happy stamp first issued in 2011, the Neon Celebrate stamp has the same artwork but new typography, including a 2015 date in the margin. The stamp, featuring a neon sculpture by Michael Flechtner, comes in panes of 20.

Paul Newman
September 18
Actor and philanthropist Paul Newman (1925-2008) was a Hollywood legend whose charitable efforts have helped many. His many acclaimed movie roles include those in The Color of Money (1986), for which he won an Oscar, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958), Cool Hand Luke (1967), and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969).

In the 1980s, his Newman's Own food company started a legacy of donating to charities. He also founded the SeriousFun Children's Network, which helps families of children battling serious illnesses.

The stamp features a photograph by Steve Schapiro, who snapped it in 1980. Schapiro was walking with Jane Fonda at the 20th Century Fox studio in Los Angeles when they spotted the actor sitting on a bench. Schapiro snapped some photos as the two actors spoke.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

Spectrum Eagle
September 2

Neon Celebrate
September 9

Paul Newman
September 18
2015 United States Postage Stamps

A Charlie Brown Christmas
October 1

The 10 special forever stamps, produced on a double-sided pane of 20, honors the 50th anniversary of the heartwarming animated television special, “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” Before it aired, CBS television executives had little confidence in the success of the special, which featured children providing the voices of the characters, jazz theme music throughout by Vince Guaraldi, and a strong dose anti-commercialism mixed with Christian spirituality. The show became an instant intergenerational holiday favorite and has been broadcast every year since.

The stamps show 10 scenes from the TV show, featuring characters from Charles Schulz’s Peanuts cartoon. Lead character Charlie Brown shows up on eight of the stamps, which also include Snoopy, Linus, Lucy, and others.

Geometric Snowflakes
October 23

Hues of pink-red, violet-purple, turquoise-green, and blue appear on a set of four stamps, bringing some unexpected color to the holiday and winter seasons. “The simplicity of these makes them distinctive,” said the stamps’ designer. The stamps appear on a double-sided pane of 20.
2015 United States Postage Stamps

A Charlie Brown Christmas
October 1

Geometric Snowflakes
October 23

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