

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Betty Ford to Dedicate Gerald R. Ford Stamp Friday *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>

WASHINGTON, DC — Former First Lady Betty Ford will join Postmaster General John E. Potter on Friday, August 31 to dedicate the stamp bearing her husband's image at 10 a.m., PT in Palm Desert, CA, at the McCallum Theatre. A similar dedication ceremony will occur simultaneously in Grand Rapids, MI, at the President Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum at 1 p.m. ET. The Gerald R. Ford commemorative stamp honoring the Nation's 38th President will be available nationwide Friday, August 31.

"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 will be 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 will dedicate the stamp in Grand Rapids with U.S. Postal Service Executive Director Rosa Fulton. President Ford's brother, Richard A. Ford, will be 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 that will be available for sale Friday, August. 31. 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.