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POSTAL NEWS

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Alzheimer's Semipostal Fundraising Stamp Dedicated Today

BALTIMORE — Postmaster General [Megan J. Brennan](#) dedicated a stamp today to fund research to help find a cure for one of the top 10 leading causes of death — Alzheimer's.

The first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony for the [Alzheimer's Semipostal Fundraising stamp](#) took place at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore. Please share the news on social media using the hashtag **#AlzheimersStamp**.

The price of the stamp includes the First-Class Mail single-piece postage rate in effect at the time of purchase plus an amount to fund Alzheimer's research. By law, revenue from sales of the Alzheimer's Semipostal stamp — minus the postage paid and the reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred by the Postal Service — will be distributed to the National Institutes of Health, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"The Postal Service is proud to issue this stamp today to help raise public awareness of Alzheimer's," said Brennan. "Proceeds from its sale will help support urgently needed medical research into this incredibly debilitating disease."

Joining Brennan in the ceremony were National Institute of Health Deputy Director of the National Institute on Aging [Dr. Marie A. Bernard](#) and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center President [Dr. Richard Bennett](#). Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Memory and Alzheimer's Treatment Center Director [Dr. Constantine Lyketsos](#) served as master of ceremonies.

“We’re in a new age of Alzheimer’s research with a number of efforts underway,” said Bernard. “NIA is working to identify new genes that affect Alzheimer’s disease and their role as risk factors or protective factors, to explore imaging techniques and ways to detect development of the disease well before symptoms appear, to develop and test new therapies, and to test and implement new approaches to providing care and supporting caregivers. The new semipostal stamp will both raise awareness of Alzheimer’s research and care, as well as contribute to the search for effective ways to prevent and treat this heart-breaking disease.”

“Johns Hopkins Bayview has a long history of geriatric care and research,” said Bennett. “We are honored to host the dedication of the United States Postal Service’s Alzheimer’s Semipostal stamp. Proceeds from the sale of this beautiful stamp will benefit the next generation of research at the National Institutes of Health. We hope this research will lead to new answers for our patients and their families who live with the everyday realities of Alzheimer’s disease.”

Also attending was the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), and Kathy Siggins of Mount Airy, MD, who followed the discretionary semipostal program criteria for submitting the stamp suggestion. Siggins’ husband succumbed to the disease in 1999.

The artwork is an illustration that first appeared on the 2008 42-cent [Alzheimer’s Awareness stamp](#). It shows an older woman in profile with a hand on her shoulder, the suggestion of sunlight behind her, and clouds in front of and below her. On the 2008 stamp, she was facing left; the artwork for this stamp shows her facing right to help differentiate between the two stamps. Stamp artist [Matt Mahurin](#) of Topanga Canyon, CA, worked under the direction of art director [Ethel Kessler](#) of Bethesda, MD.

A Heart-Breaking Disease Affecting Millions of Individuals and Caregivers

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), Alzheimer’s is one of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States. It destroys the minds of those affected by it and poses challenges for family members and caregivers. It is the most common form of dementia, but is not a normal part of aging.

The disease is named after Alois Alzheimer, the German physician who in 1906 discovered and described two hallmark signs of the disease in the brain — clumps of amyloid protein fragments and tangles of tau protein fibers — and linked them to observable symptoms.

Symptoms can include:

- loss of memory;
- problems with speech and language;
- inability to perform familiar daily tasks;
- trouble interpreting visual images, spatial relationships, and other sensory information; and
- changes in personality and behavior such as depression, apathy and agitation.

While there is not yet a cure for Alzheimer’s or a way to prevent it, public support has intensified the search for ways to treat its symptoms, slow its progression, and care for those who live with the disease. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a “National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease” that addresses the many challenges faced by patients, researchers and caregivers. The plan offered a coordinated effort to prevent and effectively treat the disease by the year 2025 and called for improvements in clinical and long-term care.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, more than 5.3 million Americans age 65 and older are estimated to have Alzheimer’s disease, a number predicted to rise as the population ages. Net proceeds from this stamp will be distributed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, all part of a national effort to find ways to prevent, treat, and someday stop this disease.

The Semipostal Authorization Act, Pub. L. 106–253, grants the Postal Service discretionary authority to issue and sell semipostal fundraising stamps to advance such causes as it considers to be “in the national public interest and appropriate.” Under the program, the Postal Service intends to issue five semipostal fundraising stamps over a 10-year period, with each stamp to be sold for no more than two

years. The Alzheimer's Semipostal stamp is the first and will be followed by a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) semipostal stamp to be issued in 2019. The next three discretionary semipostal stamps have not yet been determined.

Under the act, the Postal Service will consider proposals for future semipostals until May 20, 2023. The Federal Register notice outlining this program can be found at: [gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-20/pdf/2016-09081.pdf](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-20/pdf/2016-09081.pdf).

Proposals will only be considered if they meet all submission requirements and selection criteria. They may be submitted by mail to the following address:

Office of Stamp Services
Attn: Semipostal Discretionary Program
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Suggestions may also be submitted in a single Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file sent by email to semipostal@usps.gov. Indicate in the subject line: *Semipostal Discretionary Program*.

In addition to the Alzheimer's Semipostal Fundraising stamp, there are currently two semipostal stamps available for sale. This includes the Breast Cancer Research Semipostal, which has raised more than \$86.7 million, and the Save Vanishing Species Semipostal, which has raised nearly \$4.4 million as of October 2017. Both were mandated by Congress. Visit the [Corporate Social Responsibility](#) site on usps.com for additional information.

Ordering First-Day-of-Issue Postmarks

Customers have 60 days to obtain first-day-of-issue postmarks by mail. They may purchase new stamps at Post Office locations, at the Postal Store usps.com/shop or by calling 800-782-6724. Customers must affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes to themselves or others and place them in larger envelopes addressed to:

FDOI – Alzheimer's Semipostal
USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services
8300 NE Underground Drive, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64144-9900

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for postmarks up to a quantity of 50. For more than 50, customers are charged 5 cents each. All orders must be postmarked by Jan. 30, 2018.

Ordering First-Day Covers

The Postal Service also offers first-day covers for new stamps and stationery items postmarked with the official first-day-of-issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number and is offered in the quarterly *USA Philatelic* catalog, online at usps.com/shop or by calling 800-782-6724. Customers may request a free catalog by calling 800-782-6724 or writing to:

U.S. Postal Service
Catalog Request
PO Box 219014
Kansas City, MO 64121-9014

Philatelic Products

The following Philatelic products are available at usps.com/shop.

- 564216, First Day Cover, \$1.04
- 564230, Ceremony Program, \$6.95

You may view many of this year's other stamps on Facebook at facebook.com/USPSStamps or via Twitter [@USPSstamps](https://twitter.com/USPSstamps). All postage stamps are available for purchase at Post Offices, online at usps.com, and by toll-free phone order at 1-800 STAMP-24.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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