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USPS Releases Nonprofit Stamp *Patriotic Block, Intended for Nonprofit Business Mailings*

LIBERTY, NY — Today, the U.S. Postal Service issued Patriotic Block, a new nondenominated, nonprofit stamp intended for business mailings by authorized nonprofit organizations. The stamp was issued in Liberty, NY, without a ceremony.

This stamp displays the components found on the American flag — the stars and stripes — arranged in a four-quadrant block on a white background. The two identical quadrants at the top left and bottom right contain a white star on a blue field. The other two each hold three red stripes, which run vertically in the top right quadrant and horizontally in the bottom left.

Flags flown during the American colonial period often featured the British Union Jack. As resistance to British control grew, though, flags occasionally displayed symbols that announced a distinctively American identity, such as pine trees or snakes. Stars were scarce. During the War for Independence, the Continental Army sometimes carried a banner that featured horizontal red and white stripes, with a small version of the Union Jack in the upper left corner but no stars. The Continental Colors, as it was known, was also used on garrisons and as a naval ensign for the emerging nation.

On June 14, 1777, almost a year after it adopted the Declaration of Independence, the Continental Congress chose a design for the new country's first flag. It resolved that "the Flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The new flag thus recognized both the 13 separate states and their union. Over the years, many stories have been told about the significance of the colors and of the stars and stripes, but scholars haven't found enough evidence to support any of them.

Carol Beehler designed the stamp with art direction by Antonio Alcalá.

The Patriotic Block nondenominated, nonprofit-price stamp is sold in self-adhesive coils of 3,000 and 10,000.

Postal Products

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the [Postal Store](#) at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](#) or at Post Office locations nationwide.

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Please Note: The United States Postal Service is an independent federal establishment, mandated to be self-financing and to serve every American community through the affordable, reliable and secure delivery of mail and packages to nearly 165 million addresses six and often seven days a week. Overseen by a bipartisan Board of Governors, the Postal Service is implementing a 10-year transformation plan, [Delivering for America](#), to modernize the postal network, restore long-term financial sustainability, dramatically improve service across all mail and shipping categories, and maintain the organization as one of America's most valued and trusted brands.

The Postal Service generally 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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