



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Contact: David Coleman
202-425-1476
david.p.coleman@usps.gov

Local Contact: Mark Inglett
816-374-9111
mark.m.inglett@usps.gov
usps.com/news



U.S. Postal Service Honors Chief Standing Bear Ponca Tribe Leader Championed Native American 14th Amendment Rights

What: The U.S. Postal Service holds reverence for Chief Standing Bear by honoring him with a Forever stamp. In 1879, Standing Bear won a landmark court ruling that determined a Native American was a person under the law with an inherent right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The first-day-of-issue event is free and open to the public. News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtag **#ChiefStandingBearStamp**.

Who: The [Honorable Anton G. Hajjar](#), vice chairman, U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors

[Candace Schmidt](#), chairwoman, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

[Judi M. gaiashkibos](#), executive director, Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs

Steve Laravie Jr., descendent of Chief Standing Bear

[Joseph Starita](#), author, *"I am a man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice"*

Maggie Stuckey-Ross, parks and recreation director, city of Lincoln

When: Friday, May 12, at 11 a.m. CDT

Where: Centennial Mall
Between P and Q streets
Lincoln, NE 68508

RSVP: Dedication ceremony attendees are encouraged to RSVP at:
usps.com/chiefstandingbear

Background: In 1877, the U.S. Army had forcibly relocated some 700 Ponca to Indian Territory (what is now Oklahoma) after the federal government had given away the tribe's homeland in the Niobrara River Valley in what is now northeastern Nebraska.

In a landmark civil rights case, *Standing Bear v. Crook*, Standing Bear sued the government for his freedom after being arrested, along with 29 other Ponca, for attempting to return to his homeland. Lawyers filed a writ of habeas corpus to test the legality of the detention, an unprecedented action on behalf of a Native American.

After winning the case, Standing Bear and the members of the Ponca who had followed him were allowed to return to their old Nebraska reservation along the Niobrara River.

One issue that his 1879 trial had raised was finally resolved in 1924 when Congress adopted the Indian Citizenship Act, which conferred citizenship on all Native Americans born in the United States.

This stamp features a portrait of Chief Standing Bear by illustrator [Thomas Blackshear II](#). Blackshear created the portrait based on a photograph taken of Standing Bear in 1877 while he was in Washington, DC, as part of a delegation of Ponca chiefs appealing to government officials for the right to return to their homeland. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamp.

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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