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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR EMPLOYEES
OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

MAGAZINE





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This issue of *The Eagle* coincides with the summer of our nation's 250th anniversary, a momentous occasion I hope you all are celebrating. Like any milestone, it is a time to reflect on what has been. For me, such moments are also well suited for contemplation, to consider the future's potential and how it can be shaped.

That's what we do with the cover article, which explores how the U.S. Postal Service can optimize our public service mission, our national network and, above all else, our inimitable employees to elevate our role as a vital common thread in the national fabric.

We highlight a one-of-a-kind collaboration with Ralph Lauren that puts a special stamp on the Postal Service's own commemoration of the country's semiquincentennial. And continuing with our theme of connection, we explore how USPS maintains the crucial link between the military and families, regardless of where service members are stationed.

There's also an intriguing article on the Postal Service's historical ties to several of the country's presidents.

There's another important aspect to this issue. On the back cover, you'll find a QR code for a brief reader survey. We want to find out what you think of this magazine. What do you like? What do you want to read more about? What would you like to see changed?

Your opinions matter and we want to hear them. We want *The Eagle* to be your window into what we are doing and planning to make the Postal Service the undisputed leader in mailing and shipping. Please take a few minutes to respond.

Thank you for reading *The Eagle*.

Your commitment to the Postal Service and our customers is the foundation of our strength and success. Stay safe and keep moving forward.

David P. Steiner

Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer
United States Postal Service

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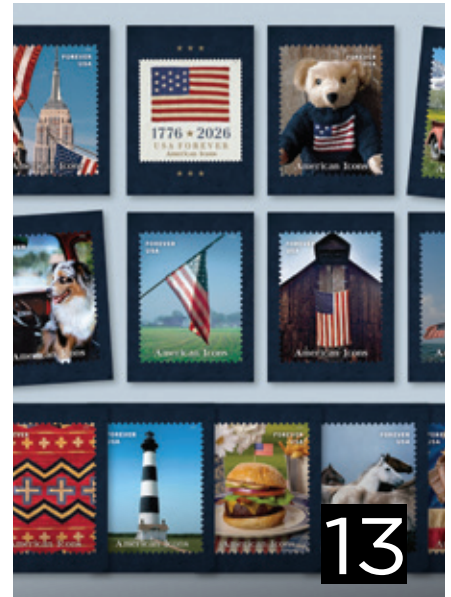
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Know a postal employee who is making a difference through volunteer work or community service?

Send Spotlight nominations to The_Eagle@usps.gov.

Enraptured With Raptors

Soar subjects, including — whew! — eagles, are a source of delight for this postal employee.

Carri Honz, a lead retail associate in Lincoln, NE, had been on the job with USPS for several years of her four-decade career when a chance encounter at work helped her spread her wings.

The native Nebraskan overheard two colleagues discussing a Lincoln-area nonprofit, the Raptor Conservation Alliance. As one told the other about the organization's need for volunteers to support its mission of rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned birds of prey, Honz grew intrigued.

"If she's not interested, I am!" she interjected.

Thirty-five years and hundreds of birds later, her interest has grown into nothing short of reverence for the eagles, owls, hawks, vultures and falcons that soar over the Cornhusker State.

"I've always loved animals, but to see a raptor out in the wild, to see them in flight, the beauty is inspiring," Honz said. "They're just exceptional."

The alliance boasts of over 18,000 birds cared for in its 50-year history, successfully releasing half back into the wild, making the organization one of the most effective of its kind in the country. There's a certain raptor, though, Honz especially gives a hoot about: Halsey the great horned owl.

Named after a section of the Nebraska National Forest, Halsey came under the alliance's care in 1997

after colliding with a car and suffering a concussion. Brain and optic nerve damage replaced his predatory instinct with a gentle nature that's made him an ideal educational ambassador for school visits and other programs, as well as a doting foster parent to over 50 owlets.

Halsey lives with Honz, who calls him "just a jewel. I feel very privileged to work with him. We have a very special bond."

Don't tell Halsey, but Honz is pretty fond of eagles, too.

Her involvement with the alliance has given her multiple opportunities to meet the symbol of the nation and the Postal Service up close. In fact, in the mid-'90s when USPS produced an employee video to promote eco-consciousness, the organization included a segment featuring Honz releasing an eagle.

It's a cherished memory of personal and professional interests intersecting for Honz, who may also be one of the most excited people you'll find when you bring up this year's Bald Eagle: Hatchling to Adult stamps.

Her enthusiasm for raptors, however, is not unusual in her community, Honz points out.

"Everybody within our group, we all have the same passion for what we do," she said. "The privilege and the pleasure of sharing what the Raptor Conservation Alliance does is truly ours."

"To see a raptor out in the wild, to see them in flight, the beauty is inspiring."

CARRI HONZ

Lead Retail Associate
Lincoln, NE

THE MILITARY *and* THE MAIL

AS AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE STEPS INTO
THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT, THE NATION'S
OLDEST PARTNERSHIP IS STILL BRIGHTLY SHINING.



Somewhere in the world today, a service member opens a letter from home — a moment made possible by a partnership older than the nation itself. For over 250 years, the Postal Service and the U.S. military have worked side by side to keep Americans connected across continents, conflicts and generations. It's a story of service, resilience and the simple human need to reach one another.

A partnership forged at the nation's beginning

When the Second Continental Congress created “a line of posts” from Maine to Georgia in 1775, it wasn't just building a mail route. It was building the communication network that held a young nation together. Benjamin Franklin's early postal system ensured the reliable flow of information that united the scattered Colonies. George Washington understood that letters from home weren't luxuries — they were lifelines for soldiers fighting for independence.

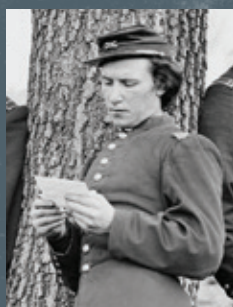
That connection between morale and communication became a defining feature of American military life, especially in times of conflict.



Mail call for soldiers in Europe during World War II

A bridge between civilian and military life

Today, USPS remains one of the nation's largest civilian employers of veterans, reservists and military families. Walk into any postal facility and you'll likely find employees who once wore the uniform — and who now bring that same commitment to public service. Among them is Aaron Flynn, postmaster of Adams, MA — a former Marine who relied on letters to bridge the distance during deployments.



CIVIL WAR

The “Soldier's Letter” program let troops send mail without stamps, with postage paid on delivery. Money orders and absentee ballots protected soldiers' finances and civic voice — even from the battlefield.



WORLD WAR I

The Military Postal Express Service established Army Post Offices across Europe, supporting more than 35 million letters in a single year.



WORLD WAR II

V-Mail revolutionized correspondence. By microfilming letters, the Postal Service reduced a 50-pound mailbag to a single pound of film, enabling more than a billion messages to cross oceans quickly and securely.



KOREA & VIETNAM

Mail volume soared from pounds to tons each day. Innovations like Space Available Mail and Parcel Airlift ensured that even in remote outposts, service members stayed connected to home.



SINCE 1980

The creation of the Military Postal Service Agency formalized this long-standing cooperation, ensuring reliable delivery to service members anywhere in the world.

“When I was overseas, there was nothing like receiving a letter from home,” he said. “The joy that mail call brings to service men and women separated from their families cannot be overstated. I’ll always be grateful to the Postal Service and to the military mail clerks who perform this thankless duty.” His story is one of thousands that illustrate how deeply the military-postal bond runs.



Postmaster
Aaron Flynn



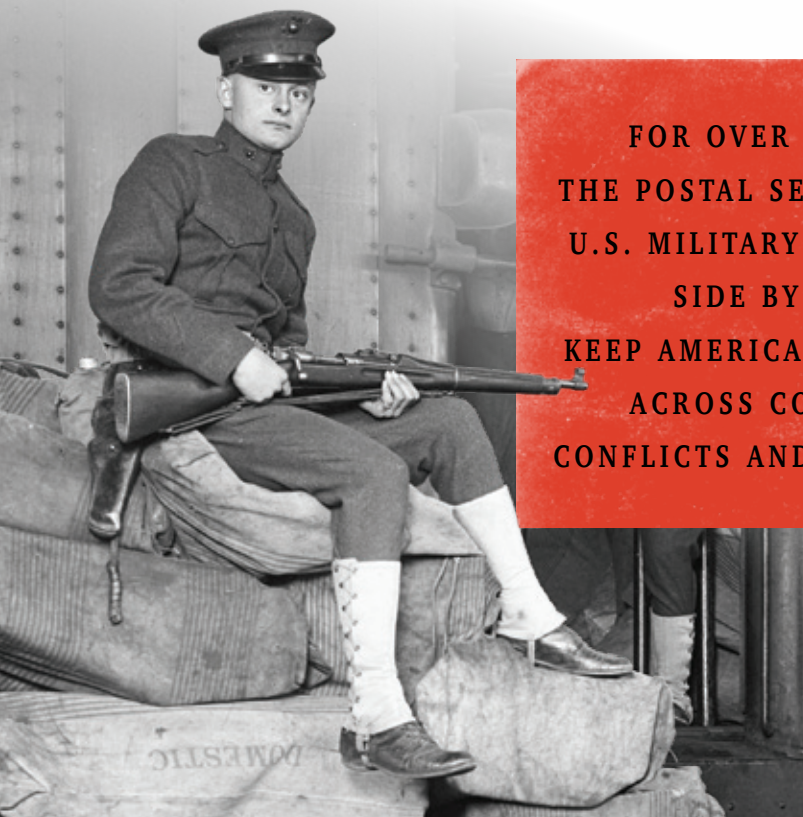
Mail processing in a Quonset hut in the Pacific during World War II

Why this history still matters

Contemporary debates about USPS often focus on efficiency metrics or financial pressures. Important issues to be sure, but they don’t tell the whole story. For generations, the mail has helped America weather its most turbulent moments by keeping people connected across vast distances.

For troops overseas, a letter is more than paper. It’s reassurance. It’s purpose. It’s home. A simple message could strengthen resolve on rugged battlefields, and a photograph tucked into an envelope could sustain hope through long deployments. Email and texting are convenient, but they can’t evoke the same feeling as a whiff of perfume or dab of lipstick on a letter.

These moments of connection shaped America’s military identity as surely as any strategy or ordnance.



**FOR OVER 250 YEARS,
THE POSTAL SERVICE AND THE
U.S. MILITARY HAVE WORKED
SIDE BY SIDE TO
KEEP AMERICANS CONNECTED
ACROSS CONTINENTS,
CONFLICTS AND GENERATIONS.**

A tradition worth carrying forward

Treating this history as nostalgia risks overlooking what has made the postal-military alliance so enduring: trust, resilience and service above self. The founders understood that communication networks were essential to liberty — as vital as any armed force.

As USPS charts its next 250 years, this partnership offers a powerful reminder: Strengthening mail service isn’t just an operational challenge, it’s an investment in national cohesion.

Because no matter where Americans serve — across oceans or across town — the mail carries a promise that someone back home still cares.

A Marine guarding domestic mail in 1921 in the wake of a series of mail truck robberies

That's the American Spirit!



The U.S. Postal Service proudly joined observances of the nation's 250th anniversary.



Attendees gathered on July 4 in Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park at the B. Free Franklin Post Office for the Declaration of Independence stamp issuance, where Secretary of the USPS Board of Governors Lucy Trout was the dedicating official.

USPS hosted special events on July 2 at 62 Post Offices whose operations date back to 1776.



Postmaster Christian Ropple participated in a media interview in Alexandria, VA, where the mayor issued a proclamation recognizing the shared history of the United States and the Postal Service.



Postmaster Bill Hinckley spoke in New London, CT, where a mayoral proclamation was also issued.



Activities in Middletown, CT, included a children's patriotic art display and a trivia game.



Washington, DC, is one of 24 cities where USPS installed special collection boxes at 30 sites tied to events of the nation's founding.

Learn more at usps.com/usa250

WOVEN INTO AMERICA'S FABRIC

Built on a promise to bind a growing nation, the U.S. Postal Service remains steadfast in its mission to connect communities great and small.



The U.S. Postal Service is a rare institution, one that helped shape the emerging nation, serving as a steady, effective and civic-minded partner for over 250 years. These timeless values have woven the Postal Service intricately into the national fabric, while its dedication to connecting communities — rain or shine — has built an enviable reservoir of public trust.

Now, as America celebrates its semiquincentennial, it is only fitting that USPS take stock of its own role and determine how it can use its unique position and bedrock values to continue its journey as a critical public service for the next 250 years.

Connecting America

The Postal Service's vision is rooted in the simple premise that connection matters. Each mailpiece or package draws a direct line to the outside world, opening the potential for new opportunities and delivering the care of heartfelt correspondence. These seemingly innocuous moments often go unnoticed, but they reinforce relationships, enable commerce and make sure that every person, no matter where they live, remains part of the national conversation.







Fulfilling that mission has required ingenuity, determination and no small element of risk as the country has embraced new ways of communicating and doing business. From horseback and steamships to same-day and next-day delivery, over the past two and a half centuries, the Postal Service has always risen to the challenge. It has adapted to modern technologies and new expectations while staying true to its purpose to keep America connected.

The future will demand the same resilience, creativity and stewardship that have defined the institution since its founding. The Postal Service has shown its current commitment to change and growth through one of the most dynamic and far-reaching transformations in its long history. It is a modernization that illustrates the power and

necessity of investing, innovating and evolving to uphold the Postal Service's mission to deliver to every community from sea to shining sea.

The heart of USPS

If the Postal Service is woven into America's fabric, its employees are the sturdy thread that binds it together. From the earliest days of the republic to the present, postal employees have been the institution's greatest strength. Alongside their proven sense of duty and dedication to public service, postal employees bring a personal touch to their work and an understanding of their communities that can only come from living among the people they serve.

Because of their deep community ties, many postal employees — some who spend their whole working

lives serving the places they call home — know and appreciate the daily rhythms and needs of American life, whether it's in a bustling urban center, on a vibrant main street or surrounded by a scenic rural vista.

Fulfilling the mission

These connections can manifest in many ways. Maybe it's a letter carrier who knows which homes need to be checked on after a storm, a retail clerk who helps a small business owner with their package needs or a postmaster who guides customers through new services. These interactions, and many more, repeated countless times every week, build the relationships and trust that power postal operations.

A workforce of 624,000 postal employees in over 2,000 specialized roles today upholds this generational commitment to serving neighbors rather than just addresses. The Postal Service's responsibility is to support them through training, technology and modern business practices that make the workplace safer, reduce strain and stress, and strengthen the security of the mailstream. This will make USPS more efficient, more reliable and better positioned to deliver the services and products its customers need at a price that works for them and the Postal Service's bottom line.

At its core, the Postal Service succeeds because of its people. Behind every delivery, every innovation and every improvement is a public-facing workforce decked out in blue, as well as many employees behind the scenes, dedicated to serving the nation. In the coming years, USPS will double down, elevating its commitment to be one of the country's preferred employers, attracting the best employees and continuing to invest in them throughout a long and fruitful career to deliver the steady connections that shape America.

A pillar of public service and economic vitality

The Postal Service is much more than a delivery network made up of paths, roads and truck routes built over a quarter of a millennium. It is the economic linchpin of a massive ecosystem that supports millions of American livelihoods and trillions of dollars in commerce. It is the country's largest civilian logistics system, reaching from the rocky coasts of Maine to the lush, sprawling valleys of California, serving every address — north, south, east and west — often six or seven days a week, regardless of geography or density.

To put the size and scope of the postal mission in perspective, USPS handles some 40 percent of all the

mail sent globally. Yet, despite the vast magnitude of this workload, the Postal Service remains a bulwark of universal service and the obligations that commitment entails, even as other countries' mailers consider eliminating physical mail delivery altogether.

USPS is often the only entity consistently serving rural and remote communities. Because of this dedication, the Postal Service is the one organization in America that can assure the public that neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night will stay it from delivering essential medicines, critical documents or the small comforts that remind people they are not forgotten, regardless of where they live.

Its reach and ubiquity make the Postal Service a cornerstone of American commerce. For most American entrepreneurs, USPS is the go-to partner when they start on a new venture. They know from years of personal experience that the Postal Service goes the extra mile for them, bringing generations of knowledge to bear to help small businesses send their first package, reach their first customer and take their first steps toward growth. And all of this



If the Postal Service is woven into America's fabric, its employees are the sturdy thread that binds it together.

is backed by a commitment to keep mail and package shipping affordable.

The Postal Service intends to build on this sturdy foundation with the same practical spirit and sense of civic purpose that has woven it into the nation's fabric. By expanding its products and services, supporting the ambitions of American businesses and strengthening its role as a trusted public servant and access point to government services, USPS is positioning itself for a future as the country's critical link.

The road to lasting success

For the Postal Service to thrive for the next 250 years, it must remain unwavering in its commitment to universal service and sustain operational excellence to serve the nation, support customers and provide good careers for employees.

The transformation currently underway is doing just that by laying a solid foundation for USPS to continue serving America for generations to come. It is building smarter, faster pathways to meet the nation's evolving needs, making the workplace safer and more accommodating for employees, and empowering customers to navigate an increasingly complex and connected world.

But success must be underwritten by financial sustainability. Achieving the balance between fiscal responsibility and delivering affordable, universal service requires prudent management, careful stewardship of resources and relief from outdated constraints that hinder the organization's ability to compete and innovate.

Ultimately, this balance will also require policymakers and stakeholders to recognize the Postal Service's full value, both as an essential service provider and as the well-oiled engine of a vast economic ecosystem.

Strengthening the ties that bind a nation

The Postal Service has not only endured, but has often been a leader, through more than two and a half centuries of change to become the world's largest mail and package network. Through wars, economic hardships and technological revolutions, the Postal Service has exuded the same resilience, adaptability and spirit of innovation that have carried America on its journey from a fledgling republic to a global powerhouse. These same qualities will guide USPS into the future, as it continues to innovate, collaborate and steward resources responsibly.

Rooted in stability, equity and public purpose, the Postal Service will continue to shape its path around the needs of the nation. As America looks ahead, USPS intends to remain woven into its fabric, serving communities large and small, in every corner of the country, and carrying forward its enduring mission to bind the nation together.





Made for Each Other

The U.S. Postal Service and Ralph Lauren have joined forces to celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary in style.

The headline-grabbing commemorative stamp collaboration between the U.S. Postal Service and Ralph Lauren for the 250th anniversary of American independence stands as a case study in the power of the postal brand. A global fashion and lifestyle company steeped in Americana joined with one of the nation's most trusted institutions to harness the humble stamp's ubiquity and tap into the Postal Service's singular, emotional bond with the country. The result? An iconic semiquincentennial tribute that reaches far beyond either organization's typical audience.

At first glance, the collaboration could appear to be one solely of contrasts. Ralph Lauren has spent decades carefully crafting a reputation of timeless style and

refinement rooted in classic American imagery. The Postal Service, meanwhile, is a 251-year-old civic institution defined by national reach, civic service and everyday reliability. One brand is an aesthetic expression, the other a pillar of public life.

But a closer look shows a more meaningful connection. Trust and consistency anchor the two organizations' images, and each holds enviable public brand recognition. More importantly, the Postal Service and Ralph Lauren are quintessentially American, symbols of the nation writ large, albeit with distinctly different interpretations.

These contrasts and complements worked together to make the U.S. 250th anniversary collaboration a success, and each brand brought something the other could not replicate.



Ralph Lauren contributed an aspirational vision of America that has shaped the country's image both at home and abroad for nearly 60 years, while the company's stature as a luxury brand added elegance and style.

USPS delivered its own firepower. Its unique bond with the nation lends unrivaled credibility to any project, and its ubiquity and familiarity allow campaigns to reach deeper into the public consciousness. A national infrastructure built over two and a half centuries also provides civic venues that can bring majesty to the celebration of historical milestones like the nation's 250th anniversary.

A commemorative Forever stamp collection was a natural evolution of this collaboration that brought together the singular skills and legacies of each organization. But this also marked a rare moment; the Postal Service had

never before invited an individual to curate a complete official stamp pane.

The result was American Icons, drawn from the designer's unique archival photograph library, showcasing 13 distinct images of America. From the U.S. flag and Jackie Robinson's baseball glove to the sailboat and Empire State

This collection holds particular meaning for Ralph Lauren's founder and namesake, who personally curated the stamp pane as a gesture of gratitude to the nation that inspired his life's work. The celebration of the country's 250th anniversary also connects with his pride and dedication

"I love America, and these images symbolize the many ideals and aspirations that bind us together." — Ralph Lauren

Building, each stamp represents definitive American ideals and shared values of freedom, independence, equality, opportunity and the pursuit of happiness.

in protecting and honoring America's cultural traditions, which includes his commitment to conservation of the original Star-Spangled Banner sewn in 1813 and carefully displayed at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

"I love America, and these images symbolize the many ideals and aspirations that bind us together," Lauren said.

To celebrate this singular collaboration, the two brands co-hosted a first-day-of-issue event on June 9 at the James A. Farley Building, a postal landmark in New York City. And fittingly, on July 4, the country's 250th birthday itself, the TV special "Ralph Lauren's American Icons" premiered on The History Channel.

The program highlights the significance of each selection Lauren made over two years, totaling 13 to represent the number of Colonies that fought to forge a new nation.

The collaboration, however, extends well beyond the pane of stamps.

USPS has reimagined Ralph Lauren's iconic flag sweater, the designer's



American Icons banners adorn the James A. Farley Building in New York City.



Participants in the American Icons dedication ceremony included, from left, National Postal Museum Director Elliot Gruber, USPS Chief Retail and Delivery Officer Elvin Mercado, journalist Katie Couric, Hearst Communications Executive Vice President Frank Bennack Jr. and national anthem singer Keisha "Shukan" Pierce.

Adding the USPS Touch

Recent collaborations illustrate that the U.S. Postal Service is an adaptable cultural brand.

While its core strengths of familiarity, service, resilience, national reach and trust are hard to replicate with any other brand, the institution has also shown openness to innovative branding and licensing ideas and entry into markets far beyond its primary focus. Combined, this approach makes USPS a potent platform for cooperative projects.

The postal brand is incredibly adaptable, allowing USPS in recent years to link with organizations in sports, fashion, entertainment and more. With USPS as the common thread, the message for each evolves into one based on civic pride, shared American values and cultural relevance.

These tie-ins work because the Postal Service provides cultural cues — credibility, ubiquity, reliability and trust — that are easily understood but take centuries to nurture, as well as the proven flexibility to adapt to new environments and novel marketing approaches.

A Postal Service collaboration adds prestige to any campaign by using recognition and reputation to help brands connect with audiences nationwide with a level of trust and reliability that can take decades for a company to build.

enduring homage to America, for one of the most widely used stamps in the U.S. postal system: the annual American flag commemorative stamp. The company, meanwhile, is building on last year's sold-out Postal Service-inspired clothing collection with a second edition featuring Polo shirts, baseball caps and sweaters emblazoned with the 2026 American flag stamp design.

The clothing collection is being sold at select Ralph Lauren stores and [RalphLauren.com](https://www.RalphLauren.com).

This collaboration is significant because it accentuates the value

of USPS stamps and the broader postal brand far beyond their typical associations with service and reliability. Together, Ralph Lauren and the Postal Service have successfully commemorated a cultural moment by elevating their American identity and turning time-honored images and a functional object into an iconic celebration of the country's 250th year. Together, this reinforces that the Postal Service has the public connection, credibility and brand flexibility to reach audiences in ways few institutions can.





From POSTMASTER to PRESIDENT

THE PATH TO THE PRESIDENCY HAS, FOR A SELECT FEW, BEGUN AT A POST OFFICE.

Long before he was tasked with the monumental job of holding together the Union through four years of Civil War, a young Abraham Lincoln took on an important patriotic duty of a different sort: serving the small but significant frontier village of New Salem, IL, as its postmaster.

Appointed in 1833, the 24-year-old Lincoln was a highly committed steward of New Salem's postal business

in an era when mail was a lifeline for its residents. Mail arrived once a week on a route running from Springfield to Millers Ferry. The custom at the time was for people to come to the Post Office to collect their mail. Lincoln, however, was known to deliver letters — carried in the crown of his hat — personally to residents unable to make it to the Post Office, decades before Rural Free Delivery would establish a formal, nationwide system

for delivering mail to individual homes in rural areas.

Earning an “honest” reputation

In one oft-retold anecdote that helps explain where his “Honest Abe” reputation came from, Lincoln proved his trustworthiness in conducting the Postal Service's business. When the New Salem office closed in 1836, a small balance of about \$18 remained. Though he was in difficult financial

straitened himself, Lincoln set aside the money, which was equal to about one-third of his annual salary in 1835, according to the United States Official Register. Months later, when a postal agent arrived to collect the funds, Lincoln retrieved an old blue sock and poured out the exact amount using the original coins from the Post Office's register.

Lincoln's tenure as postmaster dovetailed with his budding political career. The year after being appointed postmaster, he began his first of four terms in the Illinois General Assembly. Lincoln was later elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1846 and further established his reputation on the national stage through his famous debates against Stephen Douglas and his "House Divided" speech before winning the presidency in 1860.

A selfless act of kindness

Lincoln was the first, but he would not be the last future president whose route to the White House included a stint in a Post Office. Decades after Lincoln's New Salem location closed, a 30-year-old Missouri farmer named Harry Truman served as postmaster in Grandview, MO.

passed the civil service exam to qualify for the position, would sign official documents when necessary, but Hall handled the rest of the postmaster responsibilities.

Truman later went into business and served as Jackson County judge before winning election to the U.S. Senate in 1934. His rise to national prominence came during World War II, when he chaired the "Truman Committee" investigating



Harry S. Truman



William McKinley

Other ties to the presidency

Though Lincoln and Truman were the only postmasters to become U.S. presidents, they are not the only former White House residents to work for the Post Office Department. Before becoming the 25th U.S. president in 1897, William McKinley began his career as a postal clerk in Ohio, learning the rhythms of his community one letter at a time. In addition, although he never lived at the White House, former Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson served President Grover Cleveland as the first assistant postmaster general for four years, starting in 1885.

Whether as a clerk, a small-town postmaster or a federal administrator, they conducted their work based on trust, reliability and service — the same values that still guide the Postal Service and its employees.

Whether as a clerk, a small-town postmaster or a federal administrator, they conducted their work based on trust, reliability and service — the same values that still guide the Postal Service and its employees.

Rep. William P. Borland appointed Truman as postmaster on Dec. 2, 1914, although he immediately relinquished the position and its \$530 annual salary to a local widow named Ella Hall, who was helping to raise and educate her younger siblings. Truman, who had

government defense spending. President Franklin D. Roosevelt chose Truman as his running mate for the 1944 presidential campaign, which led to his ascent to the presidency upon Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945.

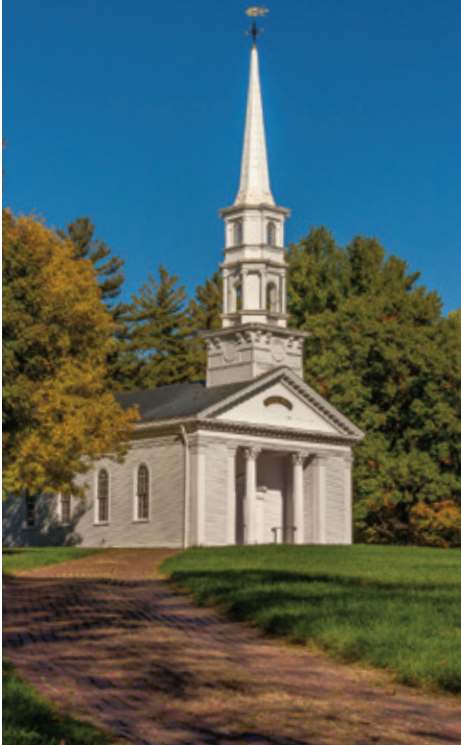


Adlai E. Stevenson and Grover Cleveland

We Go Everywhere!

ZIP Code™
01776

Patriotism, history and hospitality — George Washington maybe slept here! — never fall by the wayside in this idyllic community.



Sudbury, MA

If you've ever wondered what locale wound up with the exceptionally patriotic ZIP Code that tips a postal hat to the year of America's Declaration of Independence, look no further than the heart of Revolutionary New England.

There in the suburbs west of Boston, you'll find Sudbury, a town with Colonial roots dating back to the 17th century. Back then, in the early years of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Sudbury found its footing with just around 100 intrepid settlers, who were outnumbered by cattle 3 to 1.

Today, the affluent community of around 20,000 residents (cattle population woefully unknown) draws high-skilled workers in fields such as



health care, science and technology who appreciate its relative tranquility combined with convenient proximity to the big city.

Tourists come, too, to step back into a time when the United States of America was still a vision and not yet a reality.

At Meadow Walk, the modern town center developed in the 2010s, you can't miss the five large metal cubes shaped into the digits 01776 by sculptor Dale Rogers.

"Our ZIP Code really adds to Sudbury's patriotic spirit," said Francesco Buccella, director of the local historical society.

While the ZIP Code may be a matter of coincidence, there is undeniable

Revolutionary War-era significance in the town's heritage. After all, sons of Sudbury were among the casualties from the militia and minutemen companies who fought the British at the 1775 Battles of Lexington and Concord. "The shot heard round the world" at Lexington sparked the armed struggle for independence won in 1783 by the young United States.

And with one of New England's oldest town-meeting forms of governance, Sudbury has long exemplified principles of free speech and debate that shaped the American democracy colonists took up arms to create.

Sudbury was on the vanguard of hospitality as well. The Wayside Inn, one of the oldest continuously



Reenactors march on Patriots' Day, an annual commemoration of the first Revolutionary War battles.



Tourists come to step back into a time when the United States of America was still a vision and not yet a reality.



operating inns in the country, opened as Howe's Tavern in 1716. Its 100-acre grounds include the Old Grist Mill, famous for inspiring the Pepperidge Farm logo, and the Redstone Schoolhouse, where Mary Sawyer brought her pet lamb in 1815, thus inspiring the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb." It's even rumored that George

Washington once stopped by the inn on his way to Cambridge and possibly stayed the night.

It was also where Henry Wadsworth Longfellow set his 1863 collection of narrative poems, "Tales of a Wayside Inn." Among the stories told by the travelers gathered there? "Paul Revere's

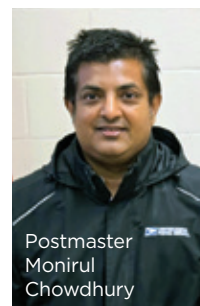
Ride," as in "Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere" — immortalizing his warning of British troops approaching Lexington and Concord.

The inn benefited from the investment of auto magnate Henry Ford, its last private owner, who bought it in 1923 and established the



foundation that operates it today. Its longevity also stems from its location on the old Boston Post Road, the fabled route for mail and travelers that helped the area flourish.

The legacy endures at the local Post Office on the current Boston Post Road. Postmaster Monirul Chowdhury



Postmaster
Monirul
Chowdhury

extols a recent renovation there that's made it feel like "a brand-new building" beloved by customers.

"They want to see us thrive far into the future," he said.



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