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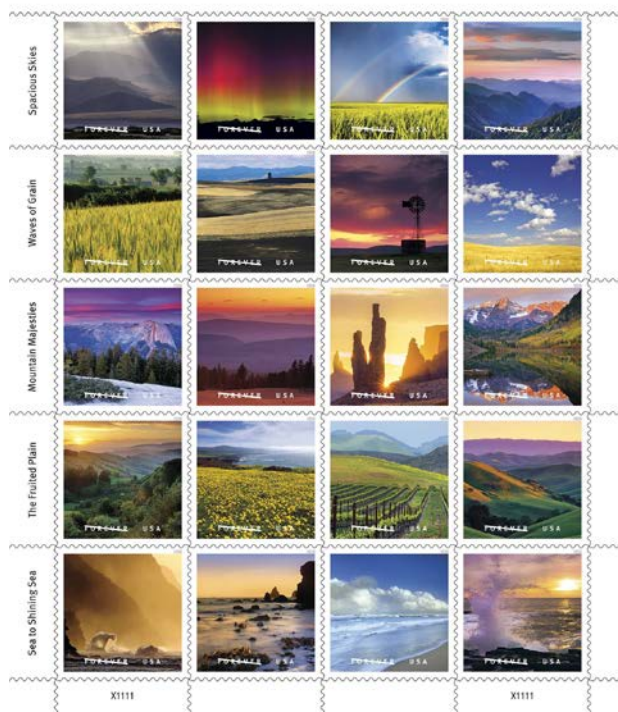
# POSTAL NEWS

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## O BEAUTIFUL



### Stunning Images from Maine to Hawaii to be Showcased on O Beautiful Forever Stamps

WASHINGTON — With the release of the O Beautiful Forever stamps on July 4, the U.S. Postal Service commemorates the beauty and majesty of the United States through 20 captivating images that visually represent one of the nation’s most beloved songs, “America the Beautiful.”

The stamps will be dedicated in Colorado Springs, CO, at 7:30 p.m. MDT in Memorial Park as part of the [Colorado Springs Philharmonic’s July 4th Event — Summer Symphony](#).

“As we celebrate America’s 242nd birthday, the United States Postal Service shines a spotlight on our country’s unparalleled natural beauty with a pane of 20 stamps that corresponds with one of the nation’s most beloved songs,” said U.S. Postal Service Colorado Wyoming District Manager Kevin Romero.

From Bailey Island on the coast of Maine to the rugged cliffs of Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park in Hawaii, the O Beautiful Forever stamps showcase the country’s extraordinary natural beauty.

Each stamp features a photograph that helps illustrate one of five phrases from the song’s famous first verse: “Spacious Skies,” “Waves of Grain,” “Mountain Majesties,” “The Fruited Plain,” and “Sea to Shining Sea.”

The stamps include a national seashore, national parks, state parks, parks managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. The stamps highlight some of the nation’s hidden gems, such as wheat fields in Wisconsin and Montana and the lush, fertile landscape surrounding Orinda, CA. The stamps also celebrate the country’s ephemeral wonders, including a double rainbow arching over a Kansas field, the aurora borealis lighting up Three Fingers Mountain in Washington, and a quietly stunning spring sunset over the green hills of Livermore, CA.

**America the Beautiful**

First published as a poem on July 4, 1895, “America the Beautiful” was written by poet Katharine Lee Bates (1859–1929) and set to the music of “Materna,” a melody composed by Samuel Augustus Ward (1848–1903). Considered by many to be the country’s unofficial national anthem, the song consists of four verses, each punctuated by the anthemic cry “America! America!” Today it remains one of the country’s most popular patriotic songs.

**Stamp Rows Themed to O Beautiful and Locations of Stamp Images**

Each row of the 20-stamp pane illustrates one of five phrases from the song “America the Beautiful” famous first verses: “Spacious Skies” (top row), “Waves of Grain” (second row), “Mountain Majesties” (third row), “The Fruited Plain” (fourth row) and “Sea to Shining Sea” (bottom row). Each of the five phrases appears to the left of the row of stamps to which it applies.



Death Valley National Park, CA/NV, photograph by Gary Crabbe  
 Three Fingers Mountain in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, WA, photograph by Kevin Ebi  
 Field in Kansas photograph by Sean Ramsey  
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC/TN, photograph by Tim Fitzharris



Field of wheat, WI, photograph by Larry Michael  
 Plowed wheat fields, Palouse Hills, WA, photograph by Yva Momatiuk and John Eastcott  
 Grasslands Wildlife Management Area, Merced County, CA, photograph by Gary Crabbe  
 Field of wheat, MT, photograph by Yva Momatiuk and John Eastcott



Yosemite National Park, CA, photograph by Gary Crabbe  
 Crater Lake National Park, OR, photograph by Gary Crabbe  
 Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, AZ/Utah photograph by David Muench  
 Maroon Bells peaks in White River National Forest, CO, photograph by Tim Fitzharris



Sunrise near Orinda, CA, photograph by Gary Crabbe  
 Pigeon Point near Pescadero, CA, photograph by Tim Fitzharris  
 Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo County, CA, photograph by Gary Crabbe  
 Livermore, CA, photograph by Gary Crabbe



Nāpali Coast State Wilderness Park, Kauai, HI, photograph by Timothy T. De La Vega  
 Lone Ranch Beach, Samuel H. Boardman Scenic Corridor, OR, photograph by Tim Fitzharris  
 Canaveral National Seashore, FL, photograph by Tim Fitzharris  
 Bailey Island, ME, photograph by Benjamin Williamson

Art director Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, MD, designed the pane using existing photographs. The O Beautiful stamps are being issued as Forever stamps, which will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce price.

**Stamp Ideas Welcome**

The public is encouraged to submit stamp suggestions. Visit this [link](#) for details on the stamp selection process and instructions for submitting suggestions in writing. Due to the time required for research and approval, ideas for stamp subjects should be received at least three years prior to proposed release. Each submission should include pertinent historical information and important dates associated with the subject.

### **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](https://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 – O Beautiful Stamps  
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. There is a 5-cent charge for each additional postmark over 50. All orders must be postmarked by November 4, 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](https://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 July 4 at [usps.com/shop](https://usps.com/shop).

- 565300, O Beautiful Forever Stamp pane of 20, \$10.00
- 565306, Press Sheet with Die-cut, \$60.00
- 565310, Keepsake with Random Digital Color Postmark, \$11.95
- 565316, First-Day Cover (set of 20), \$18.80
- 565321, Digital Color Postmark (set of 20), \$33.00
- 565324, Framed Art, \$39.95
- 565330, Ceremony Program (random), \$6.95
- 565366, Postcards (set of 20), \$24.95

You may view many of this year's other stamps on Facebook at [facebook.com/USPSStamps](https://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](https://usps.com) and by toll-free phone order at 1-800 STAMP-24.

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- *“Lone Ranch Beach, Oregon Copyright Tim Fitzharris/Minden Pictures”*
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# # #

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