

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 7, 2003

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Postal Service Web Site: www.usps.com
Stamp News Release Number: 03-004

**LAWYER OF WORLDWIDE RENOWN AND FIRST BLACK SUPREME COURT
JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL HONORED ON POSTAGE STAMP**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Postal Service today honored famed civil rights lawyer and the first African American to serve as a U. S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall with the issuance of a 37-cent commemorative postage stamp.

The historical first day of issue ceremony was held at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building. The stamp issuance also commemorates the 26th edition of the Postal Service's Black Heritage series, which began in 1978 and salutes outstanding African American activists, theorists, writers, educators and leaders.

The stamp is available today at Washington DC Post Offices and will be available starting tomorrow at post offices across the country.

“With this stamp—the 26th in the Black Heritage Series—we are honoring Thurgood Marshall’s accomplishments, his life, and most importantly, his aspirations for a truly equal America society” said John E. Potter, Postmaster General of the United States, who dedicated the stamp.

“Throughout his life, he was a leader in the Constitutional effort to dismantle racial segregation in housing, voting, and education—and our nation is stronger for his efforts,” he said.

“Thurgood Marshall, who served as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from October 1967 through June 1991, was a worthy and well-liked colleague,” said Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist.



“Honoring his memory with the issuance of a commemorative stamp is a fitting tribute to a man who left an indelible mark upon the law of his country,” said Rehnquist.

In addition to Rehnquist, also joining Potter at the notable event were Marshall's wife, Cecilia Marshall; Karen Hastie Williams, attorney, and partner with Crowell and Moring LLP, who presided over the ceremony; Ralph K. Winter, Judge for the Second Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, and Marshall's first law clerk; William T. Coleman, attorney who worked with Marshall in the landmark “Brown v. Board of Education” case; Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; and the Howard University Choir.

Marshall is one of the best known lawyers in the history of civil rights in America. He started his career in private practice and later served as chief counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) legal office. He became the first director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (LDF) in 1940 and remained in that position for 21 years. In 1954 Marshall and his legal team prevailed in the landmark Supreme Court case, “Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas,” that struck down segregation in public schools.

Marshall made history again in 1967, when he was sworn in as the first African-American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. His 24-year tenure was marked by his commitment to defending constitutional rights and affirmative action and by his strong opposition to the death penalty.

On Jan. 24, 1993, Marshall died in Bethesda, Md., at the age of 84. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—our country's highest civilian honor—on Nov. 30, 1993.

The Thurgood Marshall stamp was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Ariz., and is the eighth in the Black Heritage series to feature a photograph. The black-and-white photograph was taken by Abdon Daoud Ackad, Sr., in late 1967, shortly after Marshall became a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Postal Service continues its commitment to honoring the historical achievements and contributions of African Americans through the popular and educationally important Black Heritage series.

One hundred fifty million Thurgood Marshall self-adhesive 37-cent stamps have been printed.

To see the Thurgood Marshall stamp, visit the Postal Service Web site at www.usps.com, select "News and Events," click on "Philatelic News," then locate the online version of this news release.

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available toll free by calling 1 800 STAMP-24. In addition, a selection of stamps and other philatelic items are available at the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 137 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$65 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 207 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves 7 million customers each day at its 40,000 retail locations nationwide.

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