

Oregon flag gets stamp of approval

By Elida S. Perez

Statesman Journal

August 12, 2011

The face of the Oregon state flag along with hints of the region's landscape have been featured on a Forever stamp series.

On Thursday, the United States Postal Service issued the latest stamps in the Flags of Our Nation series, which included the Oregon state flag. A ceremony was held at the state Capitol, where Salem Postmaster Brad Bender and Secretary of State Kate Brown unveiled the Oregon stamp.

"It's a gorgeous stamp," Bender said.

The ceremony drew about 20 people and included the Oregon State Police Honor Guard presenting the colors and historical readings by members of the teen Interpreter Program from Willamette Heritage Center.

Michael Fernandez played the role of 1924 Portland Postmaster John M. Jones.

"It was great to come out and be here," Fernandez said, adding that it is a great time for people to learn about Oregon's flag and history.

Some of the people who witnessed the unveiling were there out of coincidence.

Ron Stanhope, who lives in southeast Salem, said he was at the Capitol with his granddaughters while passing time before a movie. Stanhope said he was interested in purchasing a roll of the new Forever stamps.

The stamps went on sale in post offices nationwide Thursday. A special commemorative postmark celebrating the stamps' issuance is available for collecting purposes for the next 30 days at Salem's Main Post Office at 1050 25th St. SE. The stamps are being sold at \$22 for a roll of 50.

The series also features the flags of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as the states of Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota and Tennessee.



KOBBI R. BLAIR / Statesman Journal
Salem Postmaster Brad Bender and Secretary of State Kate Brown unveil the new Oregon state flag stamp at a ceremony Thursday at the state Capitol.

Commemorative postmark

The special commemorative postmark will be available for collecting purposes for the next 30 days at the Salem Main Post Office, 1050 25th St. SE.

Cost: \$22 for a roll of 50

Where else to buy: The stamps can be purchased online at www.usps.com or by phone at (800) 782-6724.

The stamps also can be purchased online at www.usps.com or by phone at (800) 782-6724.
esperez@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6740 or follow at [Twitter.com/ElidaSPerezSJ](https://twitter.com/ElidaSPerezSJ)