

Martin Luther King Jr.

Stamp To Be Issued In Atlanta

The U.S. Postal Service said Monday that the 1979 commemorative stamp to honor civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be issued January 13 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The first day of issue ceremony for the 15-cent stamp honoring Dr. King will take place at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Dr. King (1929-1968) played a major role in the civil rights activities of the 1960s. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his leadership of the nonviolent struggle for racial equality in the United States.

The Postal Service said that issuance of the King stamp on Saturday, January 13, will make it available at post offices nationwide on January 15, the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's birth.

The stamp honoring Dr. King is the second in the Black Heritage USA series that recognizes the contributions of Black Americans to the growth and development of the U.S. The series began with the issuance of the Harriet Tubman Commemorative stamp on February 1, 1978.

The stamp was designed by Jerry Pinkney of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, a well known illustrator of children's books who also designed the Harriet Tubman stamp.

In harmony with the design concept of the Tubman stamp, Pinkney's strong portrait of Dr. King in clerical attire dominates the vignette.

Civil rights marchers bearing placards appear in the lower foreground above a single line of white type reading "Black Heritage USA 15 cents." Across the top of the design, in one line of black type, appears "Martin Luther King, Jr."



Ronald C. Sharpe of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing modeled the multi-color stamp, which is a vertically-oriented standard size commemorative. The colors are yellow, ochre, magenta, cyan, brown and black. The stamp is being printed by the gravure method and there will be 50 stamps per pane and six plate numbers.

The image area size of the King stamp is 0.84 x 1.44 inches or 21.3 x 36.5 in millimeters. The overall size, from perforated side to perforated side, is 0.99 x 1.56 inches or 25.1 x 39.6 millimeters.

Procedures for ordering first day cancellations are as follows:

—Customers affixing stamps. Customers are encouraged to purchase their own stamps at their local post offices and affix them to their own envelopes. Covers bearing customer affixed stamps will be given preferential service. All envelopes must be addressed and peelable return address labels are recommended for this purpose. Stamps must be affixed in the upper right corner of the envelope, approximately one quarter inch from the top and one

quarter inch from the right side. Return addresses should be placed on the right side of the envelopes at least 1/4 of an inch up from the bottom. A filler of postal card thickness should be inserted in each cover. Not later than January 29—orders must be postmarked by that date—the envelopes may be forwarded to "First Day Cancellations, Postmaster, Atlanta, Ga. 30304" for cancellation and return through the mailstream. No remittance is required.

—Postal Service affixing stamps. Except for affixing stamps and addressing orders, follow the procedures listed above. Orders should be addressed to "Martin Luther King Stamp, Postmaster, Atlanta, Ga. 30304." The cost is 15 cents per stamp to be affixed to covers. Do not send cash. Personal checks in the exact amount will be accepted as remittance for orders up to the limit of 50 covers. Postage stamps are unacceptable as payment. Orders must be postmarked no later than January 29.

Keep Roots Wet On

Live Christmas Tree

Buying a live Christmas tree with the intention of replanting it can lead to disappointment unless you give the plant proper care.

One of the most common mistakes with the living holiday tree is neglect—allowing the root ball to dry out, according to N.C. Agricultural Extension Service specialists.

Another reason for disappointment is the failure to select a type that is adapted to North Carolina.

Choices of balled and burlapped Christmas trees usually include Fraser fir, white pine, and the Norway white and Colorado spruces. All of these are native either to the mountains or to areas north of North Carolina.

Fraser fir grows naturally at elevations of 1,500 feet or more in well-drained, fertile soils where rainfall usually exceeds 50 inches annually. It will not likely survive if planted at lower elevations, which means it probably won't survive in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

North Carolina may be between 1,200 to 3,000 feet

in elevation, on north facing slopes, in coves and on stream bottoms. Therefore, white pine has a limited life expectancy if planted in the lower Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

The spruces have survived out of their natural range but they usually lack the desired vigor and growth.

If you do buy a live Christmas tree, the burlapped root ball should be kept moist at all times. When feasible, it helps to spray a water mist on the needles. The tree may be placed in a tub filled with moist sawdust or some other absorptive material. The root ball may also be wrapped with heavy plastic with the top left open, if a tub is not available.

Care should be taken not to overwater. Place the tree in a cool spot in the house, away from heat or windows where direct sunlight may be intense. If possible, do not use electric lights in decorating it.

Chances of plant survival are better if the tree is left in the house for a week or less. Condition it by placing in a moderately cool area before planting outside.

Do not plant in frozen soil.

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