

Prangko Penghargaan Medali Sangat Menarik Dipelajari

Honoring Extraordinary Heroism: The Service Cross Medals

Heroes of the armed forces were honored appropriately on Memorial Day, May 30, with the release of a set of four stamps featuring the second-highest tier of medals awarded for valor in combat. Previous stamp issuances have depicted the highest military decoration for valor in combat, the Medal of Honor.

These new stamps, issued during WSS-NY 2016, depict the Distinguished Service Cross (Army), Navy Cross (Navy and Marine Corps), Air Force Cross, and Coast Guard Cross. These military decorations are a grateful nation's way of honoring the bravery and achievements of members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Unlike the Medal of Honor stamps, which depicted med-

al recipients in the stamps' selvage, the Service Cross Medals stamps stand on their own. The forever stamps (currently 47 cents) come in a sheet of 12. The sheet features two rows of six within a white frame, with a gold bar across the top and bottom. Wording at the bottom of the sheet states "Honoring Extraordinary Heroism" with an underline of "The Service Cross Medals." Each stamp consists of a photograph of one of the four medals suspended from a ribbon and shown against a dark blue backdrop.

These decorations are awarded for acts of extraordinary heroism in which an individual braved enemy fire, made bold decisions, and took selfless actions to rescue or protect fellow service members.

A recent check of the Hall of Valor section on the Military Time website offers the following information about the

awards. **Distinguished Service Cross** (Army): Authorized in 1918 during World War I and awarded 13,467 times, 6,309 times in WWI. Occasionally, more than one award is given to the same service person (WWI flying ace Eddie Rick-enbacker, for example, received the award 10 times, one of which was later upgraded to Medal of Honor.)

Navy Cross (Navy and Marines): Authorized Feb. 4, 1919 and awarded 6,954 times with actions dating back to World War I.

Air Force Cross: Established 1960. Three awards were given for actions by members of the Army Air Forces in WWII. Thereafter, 194 awards were given for actions starting in 1962 with the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Coast Guard Cross: Designed by the Coast Guard and U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry and established in October, 2010 by an Act of Congress (prior to this date, Coast Guard members received the Navy Cross for valor). The medal has not yet been awarded.

Art director Greg Breeding de-



The United States Honoring Extraordinary Heroism: The Service Cross Medals commemorative stamps.

signed the stamps and stamp sheet, working with photographs of the medals by Richard Frasier. William Gicker, creative director, Stamp Development at the USPS, answered a few questions about the stamps:

The format seems similar to the Medal of Honor series. Was that intentional?

There is no correlation between the format choice of this issuance and the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor issuances were foldable folios that featured living recipients as a way of honoring all recipients. This is a simple souvenir sheet that beautifully showcases the medals. In designing this layout we remained conscious that customers would both want to use the stamps, but also retain and possibly frame them.

Are there challenges in choosing the

“right” photograph for the design?

The medals were photographed for the USPS at the Institute of Heraldry.

The size of the words is smaller than those on the Medal of Honor series. Why is that?

The font choice was based solely on the aesthetics of this art director and what he felt worked best on this design. It was not influenced or related to the font or design choices of the Medal of Honor series, which were designed by a different art director.

How was the subject chosen?

The subject matter came out of the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee in response to submissions from the public. Our goal was to design a souvenir sheet that paid homage to all those who have been recipients of The Service Cross Medals and create a sheet that would be valued by the public.

HONORING EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM COMMEMORATIVE FOREVER STAMPS

USPS Item Number: 561104

Format: Souvenir sheet of 12, 144 stamps per revolution

Issue Date and City: May 30, 2016, New York, New York

Designer, Art Director, and

Typographer: Greg Breeding, Charlottesville, Virginia

Photographer: Richard Frasier, Vienna, Virginia

Modeler: Sandra Lane/Michelle Finn

Manufacturing Process: Offset with

microprinting

Printer and Processor: Banknote Corporation of America, Browns Summit, North Carolina

Press Type: Alprinta 74

Print Quantity: 20.4 million stamps

Press Sheet Quantities: 3,000 with die cuts, none without die cuts

Paper Type: Phosphor tagged paper, block

Adhesive Type: Pressure-sensitive adhesive

Ink Colors: Cyan, magenta, yellow, black, Pantone Matching System 10128 gold

Stamp Sizes: 1.84 inches by 1.42 inches, 21.34 millimeters by 36.07mm (image); 0.98 inches by 1.56 inches, 24.89mm by 39.62mm (overall); 7.5 inches by 5.5 inches, 190.50mm by 139.70mm (pane); 22 inches by 22.5 inches, 558.3mm by 571.50mm (press sheet)

Plate Numbers: None

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