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National Postal Museum Launches “Celebrating People With Disabilities through Stamps” Virtual Exhibit

The Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum has created a new virtual exhibit and curriculum guide for teachers exploring disability awareness and history through stamps. Stamps inspire discussions and explorations through historical and cultural themes, and throughout the exhibit, students can actively participate in rich discussions about types of disabilities and people with disabilities. Teachers can combine visual-literacy strategies and object exploration to enrich their students’ learning experiences and to make new connections to existing knowledge. Presidential and historical figures with disabilities and iconographies of disability awareness are included. The exhibit can be viewed at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/ARAGOCelebratingPeopleWithDisabilities.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month began in 1988 and usually takes place in October. However, this new virtual exhibit gives reason to celebrate it all year round. “The virtual exhibit and curriculum guide provides teachers with lesson extensions and adaptations on disability awareness,” said K. Allison Wickens, the museum’s director of education. “It connects these topics to take full advantage of the multidisciplinary approach that stamps offer.”

The National Postal Museum is devoted to presenting the colorful and engaging history of the nation’s mail service and showcasing one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of stamps and philatelic material in the world. It is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue N.E., Washington, D.C., across from Union Station. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed Dec. 25). For more information about the Smithsonian, please call (202) 633-1000 or visit the museum website at www.postalmuseum.si.edu.

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