

# Post Boy

Connecting and supporting stamp collectors, of all ages and interests, in Northern Nevada since 1975



September 2023  
Volume 56, Issue 9

In-person & Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M.  
Silverada Estates Clubhouse, 2301 Oddie Blvd, Reno ([map](#))

## Officers:

**President** – James Steckley  
[president@renostamp.org](mailto:president@renostamp.org)

**Vice President** – Nadiah Beekun  
[vp@renostamp.org](mailto:vp@renostamp.org)

**Secretary** – Jeanne Paquin  
[secretary@renostamp.org](mailto:secretary@renostamp.org)

**Treasurer** – Erik Fields  
[treasurer@renostamp.org](mailto:treasurer@renostamp.org)

## Directors:

Dave Gehringer  
[dave@renostamp.org](mailto:dave@renostamp.org)

Howard Grenzebach  
[howardg@renostamp.org](mailto:howardg@renostamp.org)

Dave Parsons  
[davep@renostamp.org](mailto:davep@renostamp.org)

Eric Moody  
[eric@renostamp.org](mailto:eric@renostamp.org)

John Walter  
[editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

**PB Editor & Webmaster**  
John Walter  
[editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

<https://renostamp.org/>  
PO Box 2907,  
Sparks, NV 89432

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Announcements
2. Post Boy Reporter
3. New Members
4. Counterfeit Stamps
6. The Wrangle Government
7. Port Tobacco Maryland 1884
9. Quiz – Tiny Country Stamps
10. Stamp Show Exhibitor Certificates

## Announcements

### Meetings –

**Sept. 9** - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there will be a live auction. Members can have up to 5 lots on the auction table. Extra lots may be added up to 60 total lots.

**Sept. 23** - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m. After announcements, committee reports and raffle, the philatelic presentation is by **John Walter** “Victory in Vietnam Covers.” Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

**Online Auction #30** –starts Oct. 17 at noon, ends Oct. 26 at noon. Lots must be submitted by noon Oct. 15. Email bids to **Dave Parsons**: [NSSSauctions@gmail.com](mailto:NSSSauctions@gmail.com)  
View auction lots: <https://renostamp.org/auction/>

The membership year starts August 1. That is when annual dues is collected. **Mike Potter**, Membership Chair, will contact those who still have not paid for this year.

**Meeting presentations – Dave Gehringer**, Program Chair, is looking for members to talk about items purchased at the stamp show, stamps or covers with an interesting story, and other aspects of your collecting interests. Even a brief Show-and-Tell about one item in your collection will help educate our members.

See the article on page 6 about a recent raffle prize.

**2024 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show** – Volunteers are needed now to plan our next stamp show. An exhibit coordinator is urgently needed. Many other areas to make a successful show are needed such as, hospitality (refreshments for dealers), post card mailing, solicit dealers, welcome desk, etc. There is a job for anyone who wants to help. Contact **Erik Fields**.

## Post Boy Reporter

**August 12 picnic** – The picnic attendance had 26 members and family for this annual social event. **Erik Fields** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Mike Potter** did the shopping for grilling meats and buns. He also was the master griller, doing a superb job. **Gary Atkinson** supplied his gas grill which made the grilling easy. **Jeanne Paquin** coordinated the potluck food, and desserts. There was enough food for everyone.

**Erik Fields** gave a brief report on the stamp show and presented certificates to the exhibitors who were present at the picnic and won ribbons (pictures on page 10). Erik was also accepting annual dues from members.

Vice-President **Nadiah Beekun** conducted the elections for the unopposed offices of President (**James Steckley**), Treasurer (**Erik Fields**) and two Directors (**Dave Parsons** and **John Walter**).



**Mike Potter at the grill.**

**August 26 meeting** – Attendance was 25 members including four members via Zoom. **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **Mike DelGrosso**.

**James Steckley** reported that the Sparks City Council declared today, Aug. 26, **Dick Dreiling Day**. This was Dick's last day conducting train tours at the Sparks Heritage Museum. He volunteered for the past 25 years at the Sparks Heritage Museum serving on the board as president, director and publishing their newsletter. Dick joined the NSSS in 1975, a month after the stamp club was started and is the only life member.

James also reported on a recent Zoom presentation by the British Empire Study Group discussing a single stamp issue that took an hour. **John Walter** reported on his activities with the Vassar post office displays, the Post Boy newsletter, and the club website.

**Mike Potter** reminded everyone annual membership dues is payable now. He is contacting those who have not paid yet. Two new members joined today. Their profiles are on page 3.

**Dave Parsons** reported on the just finished online Auction #29. The total sales were \$368 with 42 of 91 lots selling. He also reported the total sales for all the online auctions was over \$18,000 with \$5,451 going to the club treasury. The next auction will start Oct. 17 to Oct 26.

The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **Robert Bernal** and the money prize of \$11.00 went to **Scott Mathews**.

The presentation was a review of the July 29-30 Reno Stamp Show. **Erik Fields**, **John Walter**, and **Dave Gehringer** provided information on the show. The financials showed a **loss** of about \$650. The largest expense being security and publicity was number two.

Lots of pictures are on the club website: [https://renostamp.org/stamp\\_show2023.html](https://renostamp.org/stamp_show2023.html) and full information on the exhibitors and dealers is on the show webpage: <https://renostamp.org/show.html>

## **New Member – Gerry Barrett**

Gerry attended meetings in July and joined at that time. He must rely on a friend to bring him to meetings or use handicap services which was used on July 22.

He collected when younger, then set everything aside for many years. Only recently has he resumed the hobby. The July meeting auction was an enjoyable experience which he participated in with some successful bids.

Gerry collects U.S., British and French Colonies. He is a U.S. Army veteran.



## **New Member – John Muise**



Aug. 26th was John Muise's first club meeting. He has collected since age 12 years and now at 92, still active in the hobby. He moved around while being in the U.S. Army for 26 years. His last years in the service were in the ROTC program at UNR. He retired in 1975 while here in Reno. He was a member of NSSS in the late 1970s before the family moved again to Oregon.

He was at the meeting with his daughter, Margaret, who was the designated driver and helper. John collects mainly U.S. but does have a world-wide collection.

John proudly served overseas in Korean War and two tours in Vietnam where he was wounded twice. He wants to actively participate in the club's live auction and socialize with fellow members.

## **New Member – Kenneth Milliard**

I was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and lived in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Colorado, Virginia, Colorado, Oklahoma, Colorado, Montana, and Nevada, in that order. I married Linda in 1971. I met her while stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis at a USO dance. We have been married for 52 years. Linda is a Registered Nurse. We have 6 children and 12 grandchildren. We moved to Sparks to be centrally located to our children, who live in Seattle, Kalispell, MT, Denver, Phoenix, and 2 in Nevada (Lamoille and Sparks).

I served in the United States Army 1968 – 1971, with one tour in South Vietnam, receiving the Bronze Star.



I first became interested in stamp collecting when I was 11 years old. I focused on United States stamps. I had a paper route and every Saturday I would hitchhike with my best friend from East Hartford to Hartford to pay our paper route bills. Once in Hartford we would go to the part of the city with secondhand stores. They seemed to carry all kinds of estate odds and ends, to include old letters with stamps. Both of us became very interested in stamp collecting. I amassed a very large number of stamps during those early years. By the age of 14, I had drifted away from collecting. Yet I kept all my stamps, and whenever I have had the chance to acquire stamps freely, I have done so. I find now is a good time to get back into learning about and collecting stamps. I look forward to becoming an active member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society.

Kenneth joined at the Aug. 26th club meeting.



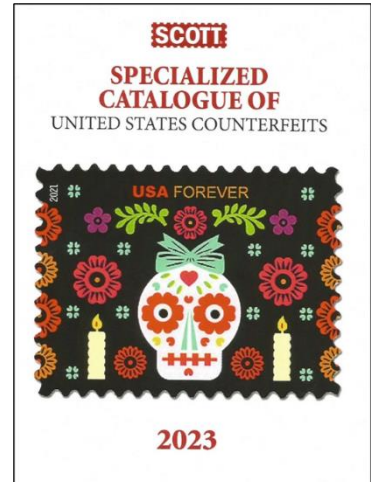
## Counterfeit U. S. Stamps

By John Walter

Our stamp club recently purchased the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Counterfeits 2023*. The 97-page catalogue covers postage issues from 1895 into 2022 (denominated and forever), semi-postal, airmail, postal cards, plus nonpostal and revenue counterfeits.

The catalogue is in the club library and can be signed out for two weeks. Contact **Dave Gehringer** to arrange the sign-out.

Quoting from the catalogue, "Counterfeiting of United States forever stamps increased exponentially in 2021 with most new issues being faked. Scott catalog editors have noted within the Postage section of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* what stamp issues are known to exist as counterfeits and have placed that information in footnotes.



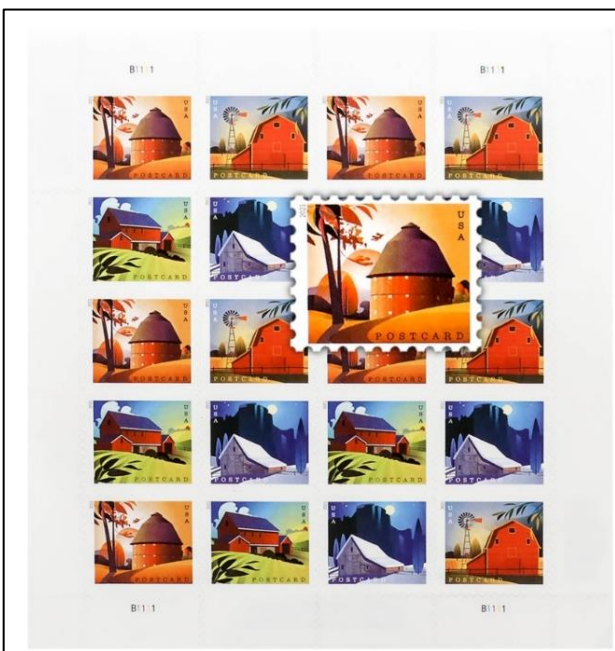
"Because of the large number of new forever counterfeits stamps (**more than 300 major numbers in the last year**), Scott editors have decided to only list denominated and earlier counterfeits in the 2023 *Scott U.S. Specialized*."

With the proliferation of these counterfeit stamps, mainly printed and produced in China, you may ask **"What is the USPS doing about the problem?"**

The USPS and Postal Inspectors are fighting back against counterfeit postage. With new changes to the Domestic Mail Manual, items mailed with counterfeit postage will be considered abandoned and are subject to being opened and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. Make sure your postage is legitimate.

<https://www.uspis.gov/news/scam-article/counterfeit-stamps>

**How easy is it to "purchase" counterfeit stamps?** Pretty easy with a simple Internet search which I recently did. Most of the fake and counterfeit stamps are advertised in panes of 20 and rolls of 100 for prices from about \$25 to \$30. Most frequently counterfeited stamps are the flag issues. Below are recent images from the Internet advertising these "stamps."



Barns Postcard stamps - 100 (5 panes of 20) for \$25.99



Flag coil roll of 100 - \$29.99

## From the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service:

WASHINGTON -- In recent years, a surge in the use of counterfeit postage has been found in the mail stream. The intentional use, or sale, of counterfeit postage is a crime because it seeks to obtain services without payment. This activity reflects an intentional effort to defraud the Postal Service of the funds it needs to provide services to the public.

In response to this problem, the Postal Service is filing a federal register notice about changes to the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®), that will allow the Postal Service to treat items found in the mail stream bearing counterfeit postage as abandoned. "As the most trusted government agency in the nation, we will continue to work together with other law enforcement and government agencies to protect the sanctity of the mail," said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale.

The Postal Service's proposed changes will provide the public notice of the handling of items bearing counterfeit postage. Under the revision to DMM 604.8.4, articles found in the mails with counterfeit postage will be considered abandoned and may be opened and disposed of at the Postal Service's discretion. The mission of the Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service is to ensure the safety, security, and integrity of the U.S. Mail. The implementation of these new regulations will continue to support and enhance this mission.

Counterfeit postage is any marking or indicia that has been made, printed, or otherwise created without authorization from the Postal Service that is printed or applied, or otherwise affixed, on an article placed in the mails that indicates or represents that valid postage has been paid to mail the article. Consumers purchasing online items may be surprised to find out that the vendor mailed their goods using counterfeit postage. Under the new regulations, such items will be considered abandoned and disposed.

**To report mail fraud or other postal crime:** Call: 1-877-876-2455

Criminal Investigations Service Center  
Attn: Mail Fraud  
433 W. Harrison Street, Room 3255  
Chicago, IL 60699-3255

Counterfeit postage is a widespread issue and a risk to Postal Service revenue. Regulations to discourage its use may impact innocent consumers who are unaware they did business with a vendor who mailed their purchase with counterfeit postage. These official USPS links provide information on:

[Avoid Using Counterfeit Postage](#)

[Package Seized by USPS for Counterfeit Postage](#)

[How does USPS Know the Postage is Counterfeit?](#)

[Tracking Not Displayed Due to Counterfeit Postage](#)

[Package Seized by USPS for Counterfeit Postage](#)

[Can I Pay for Postage to Retrieve Intercepted or Seized Items?](#)

[Scams & Scheme Alerts](#)

[Why can USPS Treat Packages with Counterfeit Postage as Abandoned or Postal Property?](#)

Further references: <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Counterfeit-Postage>

# The Wrangle Government

By Dave Parsons

Baron Peter von Wrangel; (August 27, 1878 – April 25, 1928), also known by his nickname the **Black Baron**, was a Russian officer of Baltic German origin in the Imperial Russian Army. During the final phase of the Russian Civil War, he was commanding general of the anti-Bolshevik White Army in Southern Russia. Being the last hope of “Old Russia” he and his Cossack troops were the remaining core of the Czar’s army. France recognized his government as the official government of Russia from 1919-1921. Being driven by revolutionary forces to the sea, Wrangel organized a mass evacuation on the shores of the Black Sea evacuating the White forces from the Crimea in 1920 where Allied warships rescued them and took them to Constantinople. The Wrangel Government continued to exist there for a few months longer.

While interred in Turkey and Serbia, the exiled government turned to creating postage stamps. They could not afford to create their own plates but took stamps from Russia, Ukraine, and Russian Offices in Turkey, applied surcharges to them and issued them in 1921. These were the stamps of the Wrangle Government. The stamps bore the surcharge meaning “Post of the Russian Army”. They were to be used for communications between the refugees, however, these folks could not afford postage or know how to contact friends or relatives so used copies are seldom found. Few were sold to the public and reprints are common.



These stamps may be found listed in Scott Catalog under Russia Offices abroad- Offices in the Turkish Empire. They were picked up as a Raffle Prize at a recent club meeting and provide a glimpse into a period of history unfamiliar to the author.

**Dave Parsons** is a member, and his collecting interests include U.S. used and BOB, Mint U.S. Commemoratives, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, South Africa, and Liberia.

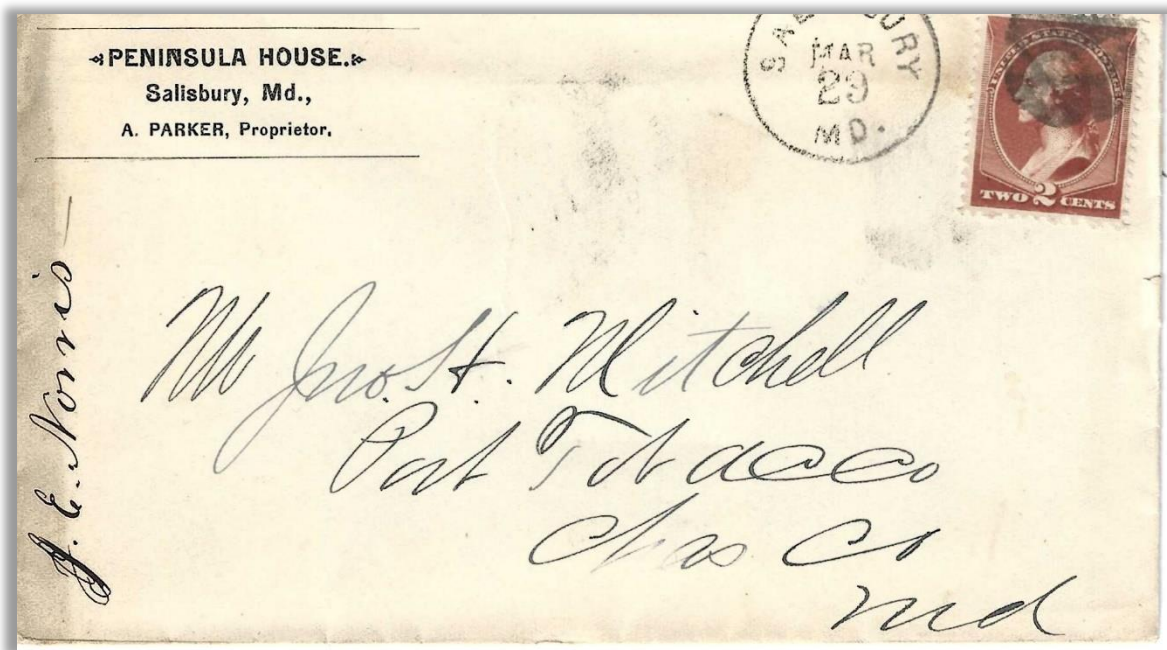


## Port Tobacco Maryland 1884

By Tom Reyman

The Chesapeake Bay divides the eastern portion of Maryland into what are termed the Eastern Shore and Western shore of the state. This area has some of the earliest settlements in the United States dating to the 1600's. Some features that made this area so popular was the closeness to the fishing in the Bay and the many inlets that provided shelter for people and boats. The proximity to the Bay enhanced the use of boats to develop commercial shipping locally and to overseas ports.

The subject cover was one that was sent from the town of Salisbury on the Eastern Shore to Port Tobacco on the Western Shore. The year of the mailing is unknown, but the stamp (Scott number 210) was issued on October 1, 1883. The stamp was issued to cover the postage for the new rate of two cents for one-half ounce mailings. Since the letter was sent on March 29, the earliest year date would have been 1884.



The village of Port Tobacco was a seaport with ready access to the Bay and to the Atlantic Ocean. This location helped the village grow rapidly during the 1700's and it became the second largest community in Maryland and became the county seat of Charles County.

In the mid- 1800's, the inlet to the village became shallow because of river silting and the railroad line that was built in the area bypassed the village in 1873. The result was the decline in commercial traffic and, with it, the decline in population. The county seat was moved to a different village in 1895 as the population decreased to fewer than 100 residents.

Residents of Port Tobacco were very much involved with the early years of the country before and after the Revolutionary War. Some notable people from Port Tobacco were John Hanson, the first President of the Continental Congress, and Thomas Stone, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

During the U.S. Civil War, Port Tobacco was strongly sympathetic to the Confederate cause and several Confederate spies lived in the area.



**A = The location of Port Tobacco**

**B = The location of Salisbury**

The sender of the mailing was a merchant, A. Parker, from the town of Salisbury on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Salisbury is situated along the banks of the Wicomico River which aided its growth as a commercial shipping center. During the Civil War Union troops used the town as an operation center to intercept shipments of contraband materials to the Confederate troops in the vicinity.

It is likely that in 1884 when the mailing was sent to Port Tobacco, that the mail travelled by ship from Salisbury.

References:

- *Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers 1840-1940*; 2023 Edition.
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port\\_Tobacco\\_Village\\_Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Tobacco_Village_Maryland)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salisbury\\_Maryland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salisbury_Maryland)

**Tom Reyman** is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.



## September Quiz - Tiny Country Stamps

By Eric Moody

1. This European mini-country, which has co-princes from two different nations as its heads of state, has a dual postal system: each of the two government administrations issues stamps in its own currency. The country is:  
(a) San Marino (b) Andorra (c) Luxembourg (d) Liechtenstein
2. A former independent German state before 1870, this “free city” featured a two-headed eagle on all its postage stamps.  
(a) Hamburg (b) Bergedorf (c) Lubeck (d) Bremen
3. Like the nearby country of St. Vincent, this small Caribbean nation sometimes issues separate stamps for the Grenadines islands, which are divided between the two countries.  
(a) St. Kitts and Nevis (b) Trinidad and Tobago (c) Grenada (d) Jamaica
4. This miniature Southeast Asian state has produced a number of stamps that feature a fanciful national symbol, the Merlion (Scott #899, etc.). It is:  
(a) Hong Kong (b) Singapore (c) Macau (d) Brunei
5. A former German colonial possession in the western Pacific Ocean, this miniature island country has a history of destructive phosphate mining, which has been celebrated on some of its stamps (#41, 307-310, etc.).  
(a) Palau (b) Kiribati (c) Nauru (d) Vanuatu
6. This small northern Italian state, which later became part of the Kingdom of Sardinia, was ruled by Duke Francis V when it issued its first postage stamps in 1852. These initial stamps bore the duchy’s coat of arms, which depicted an eagle inside a wreath with a crown above its head.  
(a) Parma (b) Modena (c) Tuscany (d) Romagna
7. This tiny Pacific Ocean nation, which became an independent state within the British Commonwealth in 1978, at one time produced separate stamp issues for eight of its nine islands and atolls.  
(a) Tuvalu (b) Cook Islands (c) Kiribati (d) Vanuatu
8. In 1920 the people of this small northern European area revolted against their Russian Bolshevik government and set up an independent state. After it issued a number of postage stamps, one of which depicts peasants playing zithers (#14), the short-lived state was reconquered by Russia. This ephemeral country was:  
(a) Allenstein (b) Memel (c) North Ingermanland (d) Far Eastern Republic
9. Twenty-three years ago, this very small European country produced a stamp (#1470) celebrating 2000 as a Holy Year.  
(a) Vatican City (b) Liechtenstein (c) Andorra (d) San Marino
10. Inventor Guglielmo Marconi and the centenary of the radio were commemorated on two stamps (#978-979) issued by Vatican City in 1995. In the same year, two similar stamps (#1336-1337) were released by this other miniature state.  
(a) Andorra (b) San Marino (c) Malta (d) Liechtenstein

11. Quite small, but with a lot of ocean and numerous sparsely inhabited islands, this western Pacific nation issued several sheets of stamps (#513-516) in 1999 that featured paintings and drawings by the famous Japanese artist Hokusai.

(a) Kiribati (b) Marshall Islands (c) Micronesia (d) Palau

12. This island state, formerly a Portuguese colony, produced a stamp (#1312) in 1997 that honored Michael Schumacher, the German world champion Formula 1 race car driver.

(a) Azores (b) St. Thomas and Prince Islands (c) Niue (d) Seychelles

The September quiz is worth 120 **Auction Bucks**.

Please complete the quiz and give your answers to

**Betty Mudge** at the next in-person meeting or

email to: [postboyquiz@renotamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renotamp.org)

**Aug. Quiz Answers:** 1. d 2. B (airmail #UC37)  
3. b 4. a 5. a 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a  
10. d 11. c 12. b 13. d

## Exhibitor Certificate Presentation



Donovan Sehr with his Bronze award, "All About Mongolia" (Junior Exhibit)

At the club picnic, **Erik Fields** presented Exhibitor Certificates to the following club members:



Jeanne Paquin with Vermeil and People's Choice Awards for "Hollywood Legends"



Nadiah Beekun with Silver Bronze award for "Wilksburg Stamp Club's Souvenir Sheets"