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Former Postage Stamp Artist to Speak

New Braunfels, TX - Terry McCaffrey, a graphic artist who oversaw the development of over 2,500 postage stamps, will give a presentation on “The Art of the Stamp” on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the New Braunfels Public Library Meeting Room. The talk will provide an in-depth look at the complex process of creating U.S. postage stamps, giving the audience behind-the-scenes stories on how several stamps were developed and some fascinating and often humorous stories of dealing with the families of well-known personalities who were honored by being featured on a stamp. The talk also covers the infamous “errors” on stamps that generated nationwide publicity, not to mention court cases.

Mr. McCaffrey attended the Corcoran School of Art, in Washington, DC, majoring in Graphic Design. In 1970 he joined the Postal Service to work in the Communications Department’s art department as the first graphic designer ever employed by the Postal Service. He joined the Stamp Services office in 1990, assuming responsibility for design of all stamps, stationery designs and related philatelic products. In 2000 Mr. McCaffrey was appointed manager of the Stamp Development group, where his responsibilities included overseeing the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, stamp subject and design development, and various other philatelic products.

In addition to art directing 53 stamp issues (121 designs) - including all 20 of the Art of Disney stamps, and the new Pixar stamps - he has personally designed 22 stamp issues (38 designs). The Smithsonian Institution requested the services of Mr. McCaffrey as a guest curator for three different exhibitions relating to stamp design for display at the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Two of these exhibitions subsequently traveled to various museums throughout the U.S.

“You don’t have to be a philatelist to find this presentation fascinating and informative. It is an honor for the library to have a speaker of Mr. McCaffrey’s importance come to New Braunfels and present on this topic. Even though stamps are something we all use, we know little about their creation,” observed Library Director Gretchen Pruett. “We think this program will appeal to stamp lovers of all ages and by the conclusion of the lecture the audience should have a new appreciation of what it takes to create our ‘nation’s calling cards.’”

The lecture series at the library is funded through the support of the Friends of the Library. For further information, contact Lynn Thompson at 830-221-4300.

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