

Fun Facts!

- In 1958, owners of the Hope Diamond sent the priceless jewel to the Smithsonian Institution by U.S. Mail. Postal Inspectors ensured that the gem arrived safely at its destination.
- In the 1940s, Robert Moon, while working as a Postal Inspector in Philadelphia developed the idea for the ZIP Code. He's sometimes called "Mr. ZIP" and considered the father of the ZIP Code or Zone Improvement Plan. His system used only the first three digits of what became a five-digit, and later a nine-digit, system.
- Postal Inspectors have investigated insider traders on Wall Street, world-wide art fraud rings, crooked televangelists, and fake charities. In recent years, the Postal Inspection Service has played an integral role in terrorist investigations, including the Unabomber, anthrax and ricin cases.
- 19 billion U.S. postage stamps were printed in 2015.
- Semi-postal stamps are First-Class Mail stamps sold by the Postal Service at a price above the cost of a regular stamp. These stamps raise money for causes designated by Congress.
- Four semi-postal stamps have been issued to date: *Breast Cancer Research* (issued 1998), *Heroes of 2001* (issued 2002), *Stop Family Violence* (issued 2003) and *Save Vanishing Species* (issued 2011). *Breast Cancer Research* and *Save Vanishing Species* are still available for purchase.