

News Release – Public Service Announcement

Richard Allen Stamp Unveiling, February 17th Columbus, Ohio

The United States Postal Service is pleased to announce the official presentation of the Richard Allen Commemorative Forever Stamp. This event which is a follow up to the national release done in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 2nd, is being done in cooperation with the Third Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



The stamp's release is meant to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the founding of the A.M.E. Church, established in 1816 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The AME Church has grown to over 7000 churches in 39 countries.

Roy Betts, spokesperson for the Postal Services, explained to The Christian Post in an interview the reason for the stamp.

(Photo: The Library Company of Philadelphia) United States Postal Service stamp commemorating Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.)

"The Postal Service is honoring Richard Allen for his inspirational life and profound contribution to American history," said Betts.

"The stamp art is a portrait of Allen, a detail from an 1876 print titled, 'Bishops of the A.M.E. Church' from the collection of The Library Company of Philadelphia."

"Born a slave on Feb. 14, 1760, Richard Allen lamented the bitterness of slavery. He purchased his own freedom in his 20s and became one of the most important African-American leaders of his era," reads a statement from the Postal Service, in part. "His life — a legacy of determination, uplift, charity and faith — remains an inspiration to all Americans."

Among the guests expected to attend the Wednesday debut of the Forever stamp depicting Richard Allen are Bishop McKinley Young, Presiding Bishop of the Third Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Mr. Iggi Vaccaro, U.S. Postmaster, Columbus, Ohio; city, county and state officials and persons of the ecumenical community and friends!

This U.S. Postal Service ceremony for a stamp to honor a religious pioneer is expected to draw many to the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest African American Church in Columbus, organized in 1823.

The unveiling of the 39th stamp in the Black Heritage series is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 639 East Long Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. The Rev. Dr. Taylor T. Thompson is the host pastor. For more information, <http://www.stpaulamecols.org/> or call 614-228-4113.