

One such holiday tradition is the mailing of seasonal greetings and gifts to friends and family far and wide. Did you know that the history of holiday greeting cards in America dates back as long ago as 1875 when Louis Prang, a German immigrant in Boston, produced the first line of printed Christmas cards? He even held contests across the country offering prizes for card designs, which helped popularize the practice.

The images and messages that have decorated cards typically reflect political trends and moods of the times. World War II era holiday cards depicted Santa Claus and Uncle Sam holding American flags with messages such as "missing you" for servicemen fighting overseas. This year, holiday cards not only convey sentiments of peace and happiness, but feelings of pride and patriotism in our Nation's heritage of faith and freedom.

It is not surprising to note that around 1880, the post office began urging to "post early for Christmas." The first U.S. Christmas stamp, which portrayed wreaths and trees, debuted in 1962. Since then various designs have graced holiday envelopes. This year, the Postal Service offers a variety of holiday postage stamps, commemorating Hanukkah; Kwanzaa; Eid, for the two most important festivals in the Islamic calendar, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, and Christmas, including stamps depicting old-fashioned Santas and traditional Madonna and Child artwork.

This holiday season the United States Postal Service and the greeting card industry have been working hard to assure customers that despite the recent anthrax scare printed cards are completely safe to send through the mail. The Postal Service has distributed information to every postal address and post offices around the country have implemented extra screening procedures. The more than 800,000 postal employees nationwide have received extensive training on proper mail handling. In recent speeches, Postmaster General Jack Potter has encouraged the sending of holiday cards, emphasizing that they would be "especially meaningful this year."

Written greetings are a special way of making and maintaining personal connections across the miles. Cards and letters with personal messages can be read and reread, shared and displayed, and preserved for posterity. I encourage you to take time to continue this holiday ritual by sending holiday cards to family and friends this season and by supporting the work of the United States Postal Service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 483. An act regarding the use of the trust land and resources of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

H.R. 1291. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and improve authorities relating to education benefits, compensation and pension benefits, burial benefits, and vocational rehabilitation benefits for veterans, to modify certain authorities relating to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2559. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 5, United States Code, relating to Federal long-term care insurance.

H.R. 2883. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3323. An act to ensure that covered entities comply with the standards for electronic health care transactions and code sets adopted under part C of title XI of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3442. An act to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture Plan for Action Presidential Commission to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and for other purposes.

At 6:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3448. An act to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4903. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on appropri-

tions legislation relative to sec. 251(a)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4904. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Nation 2001" relative to the Office for Victims of Crime during Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4905. A communication from the Senior Attorney Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delivery of Checks and Warrants to Address Outside the United States, Its Territories and Possessions" (31 CFR Part 211); to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4906. A communication from the Chairman of the Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Response Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Panel's third annual report for 2001; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4907. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticides Labeling and Other Regulatory Revisions" (FRL6752-1) received on December 12, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4908. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sethoxydim; Pesticide Tolerance Technical Correction" (FRL6814-4) received on December 12, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4909. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions; Multiple Chemicals" (FRL6814-2) received on December 12, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4910. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and the designation of acting officer for the position of General Counsel, received on December 12, 2001; to the Committee on Intelligence.

EC-4911. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the discontinuation of service in acting role for the position of Acting Inspector General, received on December 12, 2001; to the Committee on Intelligence.

EC-4912. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Control of Landfill Gas Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; State of Iowa" (FRL7117-7) received on December 12, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4913. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin;