



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Philatelic and Retail Services Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-6700

October 12, 1988

Dr. James H. Lutschg
Baton Rouge Clinic
8415 Goodwood Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-7899

Dear Dr. Lutschg:

Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank has asked me to respond to your September 22 letter expressing your support for a stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Surgeon General's report on the hazards of smoking.

We take special pride in our stamp program and its unique way of honoring the people, places and events that have shaped this great nation of ours. Given America's rich heritage, remarkable achievements and cultural diversity, we may never lack for worthy subjects to be honored on United States postage stamps.

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee receives thousands of requests for new stamps each year. Comprised of artists, designers, historians and educators from outside the Postal Service, this group meets six times a year to consider stamp proposals. They review each suggestion carefully and in accordance with specific guidelines before recommending a subject for final approval.

Because of the time required for the design and production of postage stamps, the Committee must work several years in advance. Therefore, the 1989 and 1990 stamp programs have already been finalized and the Committee is working on 1991 and future years. Furthermore, current stamp selection criteria dictates that stamps be issued to commemorate 50th anniversaries and subsequent anniversaries at 50 year intervals.

As you know, the Committee has considered proposals for a "No Smoking" message but has not recommended that a stamp be issued. A copy of your letter, however, will be placed in the Committee's file and made available for review at their next meeting.

Thank you for your interest in our stamp program.

Sincerely,

Dickey B. Rustin
Manager
Stamp Information Branch