

Medical Association of the State of Alabama

LATE RESOLUTION NO. /10

Submitted by: William J. Terry, MD, Alan Blum, MD & Ronald M. Davis, MD

Subject: Issuing a Postage Stamp to Commemorate the First Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health (1964)

Referred to: Reference Committee A

Whereas, Cigarette smoking is the most important preventable cause of death in the United States, responsible for more than 400,000 deaths each year (Mokdad AH, et al. JAMA 2004; 291: 1238-1245); and

Whereas the CDC has referred to the first Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health as a "landmark" document and also as the "first official recognition in the United States that cigarette smoking causes cancer and other serious diseases" (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5303a1.htm>); and

Whereas, Dr. Luther L. Terry was the surgeon general bold enough to produce this landmark report, is a member of the "Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame", and was a native Alabamian as is our present Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin; and

Whereas, 65 countries have issued anti-tobacco postage stamps or other postal items such as postcards, but the United States has not done so (Lutschg JH, BMJ 2000;321:378); and

Whereas, US postage stamps have been devoted to many other health-related subjects, including breast cancer, prostate cancer, AIDS, organ donation, dental health, physical fitness, alcohol abuse, and drug abuse (Woloshin S, Schwartz LM. New Engl J Med 1999; 340: 884-887); and

Whereas, The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, a body appointed by the U.S. Postmaster General, recommends to the Postmaster General subjects and designs for commemorative postage stamps; and

Whereas, The criteria for selecting topics for commemorative stamps include events of historical significance on anniversaries in multiples of 50 years (<http://www.usps.com/communications/organization/csac.htm>); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Medical Association of the State of Alabama urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend that a postage stamp be issued in 2014 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the release of the first Surgeon General's report on smoking and health on January 11, 1964; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Medical Association of the State of Alabama send this resolution to the AMA and ask our AMA to implement this action by sending a sign-on letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, with endorsements by national medical specialty societies, state medical associations and other appropriate health organizations.