



On April 16 at the Postage Stamp Mega Even in New York the USPS will issue its fourth set of Flags of Our Nation stamps in pressure-sensitive adhesive coil rolls of 50 with ten different designs. The latest set features the U.S. Flag against “purple mountain majesties” (inspired by the opening lines of “America the Beautiful” by Katharine Lee Bates), Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina and North Dakota.

As with the previous sets, artist Tom Engeman of Bethany Beach, Delaware, created the highly detailed flag portraits on the stamps, reproducing as accurately as possible such complex elements as intricate state seals and coats of arms. In addition to the flag art, each stamp design includes a “snapshot view” of the state or other area represented by a particular flag. This artwork, also by Tom Engeman, usually shows an ordinary scene or activity, or a typical plant or animal, but occasionally it depicts something less commonplace.

There will be 60 stamps in all when the series is finished.

Originally scheduled for two sets a year from 2008 through 2012, only one set was issued last year, so the series will extend into 2013. In addition to the 50 states, there are also stamps for the territories and different U.S. flag stamps.

A total of 500 million stamps were gravure-printed by the American Packaging Corporation division of Sennett Security Products. Plate numbers on every tenth stamp consist of the letter “S” to identify Sennett Security as the printer followed by nine single digits, one for each print color: magenta, yellow, cyan, black, red, and brown, green, medium blue and dark blue.

To obtain first day cancellations, the usual rules apply. Affix the stamps to covers of choice addressed to yourself or others and send them in an outer envelope to Flags of Our Nation Stamp Set 4, Postmaster, 421 Eighth Ave., Rm. 2029B, New York, NY 10199-9998. All orders must be postmarked by June 16, 2010. (If you prefer, you may also enclose a postpaid self-addressed envelope for return of your covers to protect them from double-cancellation or damage in the mail.)