UNITED STATES
PURPLE HEART ISSUES

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in action. The medal is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier. It is the military's 5th highest combat award, after the Bronze Star (#4), Silver Star (#3) the Service Crosses (#2), and the Medal of Honor (#1).

2003

37¢
Serpentine Die
Cut 11 ¼ x 10 ¾
"B" plate no.

2003

37¢
Serpentine Die
Cut 10 ¾ x 10¼
"P" plate no.

2006

39¢

Serpentine Die
Cut
11 ¼ x 11

2007

41¢

Serpentine Die
Cut 11 ¼ x 10 ¾

2008

42¢

Perforated 11 ¼

2008

42¢

Serpentine Die
Cut 11 ¼ x 10 ¾

2009

44¢

Serpentine Die
Cut 11 ¼ x 10 ¾

2011

44¢

Serpentine Die
Cut 11 ¼ x 10 ¾

2012
Enlarged design

45¢

Serpentine Die
Cut 11

2012
IMPERFORATE

45¢

Serpentine Die
Cut 11

2014
Re-print of 2012

49¢
Serpentine Die
Cut 11

2015 or 2017
Microprinted "USPS"

49¢
Serpentine Die
Cut 11
Same design
Same Scott #
Different printer
each year
2015 = S plate #
2017 = B plate #

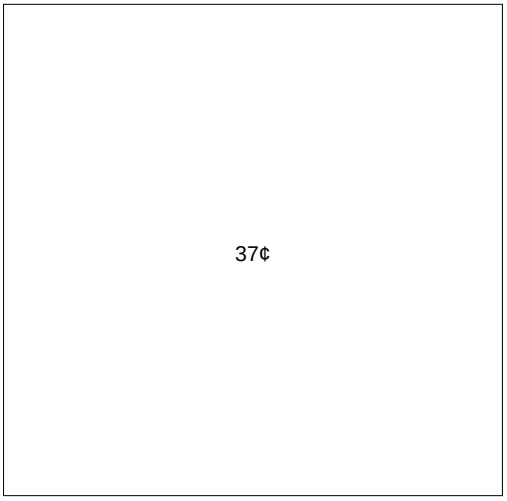
2019
Added purple border
Microprinted "USPS"

55¢
Serpentine Die
Cut 11

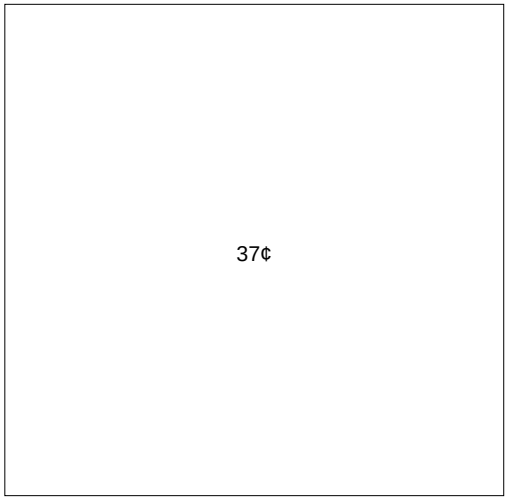
UNITED STATES
PURPLE HEART ISSUES

Both of the 2003 issues are known imperforate (errors), but the only way to tell them apart is to collect them with the plate number attached. The stamp that was to have had a serpentine die cut of 11 ¼ x 10 ¾ will have a "B" plate number. The stamp that was to have a serpentine die cut of 10 ¾ x 10¼ will have a "P" plate number.

2003
IMPERFORATE "B" Plate

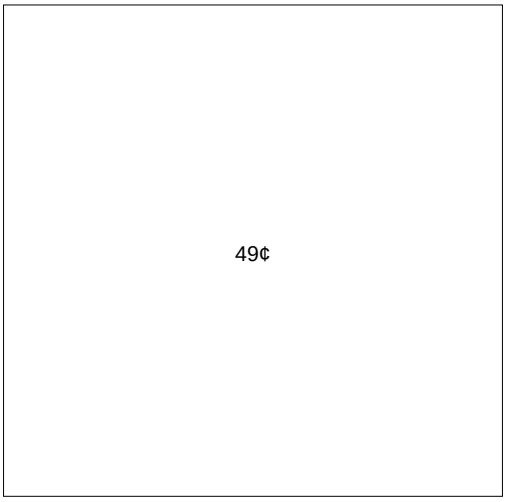


2003
IMPERFORATE "P" Plate



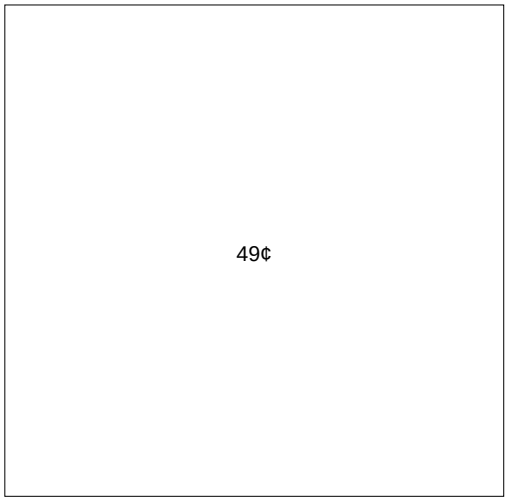
Both of the serpentine die cut 11 reprints of the 2012 design that were issued in 2015 and again in 2017 bear the 2014 date, but were produced by a different printing company each year. The stamps are identical in all; respects and even carry the same Scott catalogue number, despite having been issued in two different years. The only way to tell them apart is to collect them with the plate number attached so as to determine the printer. The 2015 re-print will have a "S" plate number (Sennette), followed by 6 numbers. The 2017 re-print will have a "B" plate number (BCA) followed by 6 numbers. Unlike the 2014 re-print, both of these have "USPS" microprinted near the top left edge of the ribbon.

2015
"S" Plate



5035

2017
"B" Plate



5035