

# 20<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## Getting a B-29 Stamp Issued

In 1994-95, the Smithsonian was preparing an Enola Gay exhibit that would castigate the United States for dropping two Atomic Bombs on Japan, thereby promoting the idea that Japan was just a poor, helpless victim. Those who still had your wits about you wouldn't stand still for that foolishness and, without being asked, initiated one of the most effective letter writing campaigns Congress has ever received. Congress started after the Smithsonian, which looked at its hole-card, saw that it clearly had a losing-hand, and folded. Today, you guys need to get off Top Dead Center and go after Congress—courteously but firmly--because the U.S. Government's Stamp Committee (a political creature) needs enlightenment. You can either sit on your hands or pick up your pen (or whatever) and write your Congressional representatives. But before doing so, go to your local Post Office and look at various denominations of stamps being offered for public use. Some dandies, for example, a series of five 37-cent stamps depicting unidentified early-American mechanical devices (fire engine, taxi, steam engine, mail truck). Why should the U.S. Government commemorate such devices without having commemorated the airplane which prompted the end of World War II in the Pacific, thereby freeing hundreds of millions of Asian peoples from the heel of the Japanese Army—people without hope of ever being free. And don't let up on your Congressional delegation. They may not care two cents about your love for an old airplane (B-29), but they count votes, and if enough of us get on Congress' back and keep pounding away—as we did with Enola Gay—Congress will make its wishes known to the Stamp Committee. And we will have our B-29 stamp. The process is slow, we are old, and time is critical so everyone's help is needed. This may be the last public service B-29 veterans can render this great country, and only we will know whether we have fulfilled that duty.

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