

SEND IT AIR MAIL WITH LARRY BELL



Would you like to see Bell Helicopter's founder, Larry Bell, pictured on a U.S. postage stamp? This might happen if the Helicopter Club of America (HCA) can generate enough interest in the aviation community to convince the postal service to use Mr. Bell as a subject. If approved, the postal service would issue the stamp about the same time as Larry Bell's 100th birthday anniversary in 1994. It actually takes three years to process a candidate for a stamp, according to the post office. So the time to act on an application is now.

Early this year, the Helicopter Club spearheaded an effort to make this stamp a reality, in view of Larry Bell's enormous contribution to the establishment of both fixed and rotary wing industries. "What it will take," says John Williams, HCA Club Officer, "is a letter writing campaign to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, in Washington, D.C., from all sectors of the industry. Letters from industry and the political sector must testify to the fact that a stamp of Larry Bell would have widespread national recognition and appeal, as this is a criteria for stamp selection. The approval will depend largely on the widespread interest evidenced by the volume of public response. "The more letters over the three-year period, the better!"

If you would like to express your support for a Larry Bell stamp, you may write to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee. However, mail your letter to:

Helicopter Club of America
607 Hindsale Drive
Arlington, Texas 76006

The HCA will collect your letters for a formal presentation to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee.

Listed below are highlights of Mr. Bell's career. He was born April 5, 1894 in Mentone, Indiana and died on October 20, 1956.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Built the first aerial bombardment device (1914) dropped from a Martin biplane, which eventually led to Gen. Billy Mitchell's utilization of the Martin B-2 aircraft to prove that bombers could sink battleships (1921).
- Named Vice President and General Manager of the Martin Company (now Martin Marietta) in 1925.
- Founder of Bell Aircraft Corporation, Buffalo, New York (1935).

- Founder of Bell Helicopter Company, Fort Worth, Texas (1951).
- Developed and produced the "Aircuda", the fastest airplane of the period (300+ mph) in 1937 for the U.S. Army Air Corps.
- Developed and produced America's first jet-powered airplane, the P-59 "Airacomet", in 1942.
- The P-39 "Airacobra", World War II fighter (1940), incorporating an innovative rear engine and a 37mm cannon mounted in the nose.
- Built the B-29 "Superfortress" (war years).
- Built the P-63 "King Cobra" (war years).
- The world's first commercially certified helicopter, the Bell Model 47, in 1946.
- Built and tested the X-1 research aircraft, the first plane in the world to break the sound barrier (October 1947).
- The X-2 research aircraft which was the world's fastest and highest flying manned airplane during the period. Speed of over 2,000 mph, and an altitude of 126,000 feet.
- Received the Daniel Guggenheim Medal (1944) for achievement in design and contribution of military aircraft and for outstanding contributions to the methods of aircraft production.
- Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Hobart College, New York, in 1944.
- Co-recipient (along with Chuck Yeager) of the prestigious Collier Trophy from President Truman for their efforts in the X-1 aircraft sound barrier test flights (1947).

If you would like to see the Larry Bell stamp become a reality, please fill out the attached form yourself and have friends or relatives fill out the other two forms and send it the *Marge Hyland*, Publications, Mail Zone S-70. The forms will be forwarded to the Helicopter Club of America.

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Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Affiliation: _____

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