

# FRIDAY BRIEF

VOLUME No: 31

Issue No: 3

Washington, D.C.

November 16, 2001

## **Islamic Institute Wishes Ramadan Mubarak!**

The Islamic Institute sends its warmest greetings to the American Muslim community and to Muslims worldwide in recognition of the start of the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak!

Ramadan offers a religious and spiritual opportunity for peace, consideration, and acceptance for all mankind. The Islamic Institute calls on the Muslim community of the United States, as well as Muslims worldwide, to use this time to reach out in friendship and acceptance to all people of the world and be strong in this time of crisis for our country and the world.

## **Postal Service to Include Eid Stamp in Holiday Poster**

The U.S. Postal Service will be reprinting holiday stamp promotional posters that were displayed in post offices around the country and that excluded an image of the Eid stamp.

The Eid stamp was approved and offered for sale on September 1st to commemorate the two important Islamic festivals, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. A statement issued by the Postal Service concerning the omission read as follows: " The Postal Service deeply regrets the oversight and is reprinting the holiday poster depicting the Eid stamp image in local post offices. Eid stamps will be available for sale at post offices nationwide this holiday season... The Postal Service is proud to feature the Eid stamp as part of its commemorative holiday stamp series in recognition of the many outstanding contributions of the Muslim community here in the United States and throughout the world."

The Eid stamps are currently available for purchase online at the Postal Service website, [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com), or by calling toll-free 1-800-STAMP-24. We also encourage the community to contact Postmaster General John E. Potter to thank him and the Postal Service for its decision at [jpotter@email.usps.gov](mailto:jpotter@email.usps.gov).

## **Election Reform Bill Gains Steam**

A bipartisan bill to overhaul the U.S. election system is making headway in the House of Representatives. The "Help America Vote Act of 2001" was introduced on Wednesday in the House Committee on Administration by Representatives Bob Ney (R-OH) and Steny Hoyer (D-MD). The legislation would be the first bipartisan election reform bill approved by a congressional panel since last year's presidential contest.

The bill would provide states with \$2.25 billion over three years for new voting equipment and a number of other improvements, with an additional \$400 million to buy out old punch-card voting machines. States would also be required to adopt minimum election standards.