

The Outreach

Department of
Senior & Community Services

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Winter 2003

“America Remembers” Plate available

In honor of the thousands of people who lost their lives during the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C., Secretary of State Jesse White is making available a new specialty license plate to Illinois motorists.

“This plate not only honors those whose lives were lost on Sept. 11, but provides funding for our state to combat further acts of terrorism,” said Secretary



Secretary of State Jesse White joined state veterans organizations, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other Illinois dignitaries at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony near the Firefighter Memorial on the State Capitol grounds in September.



White. Proceeds from the sale of “America Remembers” plates will go to the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to fund grants to local governments for training, equipment and other items related to public safety in response to terrorism or other emergency situations.

The plates, featuring a waving American flag at the bottom, the words “America Remembers” across the top and “September 11, 2001” at the bottom, cost \$118 (\$40 original issuance fee, plus standard \$78 registration fee). Of that, \$25 will be deposited into the fund. Motorists will pay \$105 upon renewal (\$27 plus the standard \$78 fee), \$25 of which will go into the fund. Motorists who want the plates before their current plates expire will pay an additional \$14 fee.

Motorists may sign up for the plate online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com or by calling 217-558-6148.



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Secretary of State Jesse White receives Liberty Award

Secretary of State Jesse White was recently honored with the Progress Center for Independent Living's Liberty Award for his efforts to reduce fraud and abuse of parking placards and disability license plates.

"As Secretary of State, Jesse White has worked hard to make sure that parking placards for persons with disabilities are not abused," said Diane Coleman, executive director of the Progress Center. "We are pleased to present him this award for the significant changes he has made to strengthen this vital program."

"The Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities was created for those who truly need it," said Secretary White. "When people abuse this program, they not only break the law but disrespect the disability community."

White's office has overhauled the program by creating new tamper-resistant parking placards and strengthening enforcement of the program. The new placards have a coding system and a hologram, which discourages the fraudulent use and misuse of the placards. Law enforcement also has the authority to confiscate placards if they witness them being used illegally.

The Progress Center is a community-based, non-profit organization that provides independent living services, peer support and advocacy programs for persons with disabilities in suburban Cook County. There are 24 centers for independent living across the state.



Public Act 92-0637 further strengthens Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities

In a continued effort to reduce the fraudulent use and abuse of parking placards and disability license plates, Secretary of State Jesse White introduced Senate Bill 1530 during the spring 2002 legislative session. The new law, which was signed by the governor and went into effect Jan. 1, 2003, clarifies language to provide police officers with greater enforcement provisions to ticket violators.

When parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities, a parking placard must be properly displayed in the vehicle where it is clearly visible to law enforcement personnel, either hanging from the rearview mirror or placed on the dashboard of the vehicle in clear view. Police officers may ticket vehicles parked in

these reserved spaces if the vehicle is not displaying a placard or disability license plates.

"For this program to be effective, people with disabilities must plainly display their placards in their vehicles when parking in an accessible parking space," said Bill Bogdan, disability liaison for Secretary White. "If the placard is not properly displayed, it is impossible for police officers to determine if the owner of the vehicle is disabled and/or subject to a fine."

The new law adds to other laws that went into effect last January, which created new placards and stricter guidelines for issuing disability plates and placards.

For more information about the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities, please call the Senior & Community Services Department at 1-800-252-2904 (Voice/TTY).

First phase of replating complete; second and third phases underway

Secretary White recently announced that the replating of all passenger vehicles is complete and the next phases are underway.

“At this point, everyone who renewed their regular passenger plates by the deadline should have received new-design plates and should now have those plates displayed,” said Secretary White. “If drivers still have old passenger plates displayed on their vehicles they should notify my office immediately.”

Phase II

The Secretary of State’s office has mailed motorists with certain specialty plates their new-design plates. The new plates feature larger alphanumeric characters and accommodate the new, smaller renewal stickers.

Plates being replated as part of phase two include:

- Armed Forces Reserve
- Bronze Star
- Collegiate
- Congressional Medal of Honor
- Disabled Veteran
- Ex-POW
- Gold Star
- Ham Radio
- Hearing Impaired
- Illinois/Michigan Canal
- Illinois National Guard
- Korean War Veteran
- Mammogram
- Master Mason
- Pearl Harbor Survivor
- POW/MIA
- Purple Heart
- Retired Armed Forces
- Sporting Series
- Vietnam Veteran
- Wildlife Prairie Park
- World War II Veteran

These plates will have the same expiration date as the old plates. Renewal stickers will be available during the regular renewal month. Motorists who have not received their new-design plates for these categories should call the number below.

Phase III

The third phase of the program also is in progress. This phase includes the replating of B-truck, Environmental, Prevent Violence, Firefighter, TA Trailer, Motorcycle and RV/RT plates as they expire in 2003. Motorists will receive renewal notices in the mail instead of the actual plates. They then must renew and receive their new plates through the Touch-Tone Renewal System, at www.cyberdriveillinois or at a Driver Services facility.

Drivers with Disability Plates will be receiving specific instructions soon for the replating of those plates.

For questions regarding replating, call 217-558-0515.



Mobile Driver Services facility

The Secretary of State's Mobile Driver Services facility has been very busy. During 2003, thousands of state ID cards, driver's licenses and vehicle stickers were issued to Illinois residents through the program.

The mobile unit, available in the busy Chicago metro area, participated in many senior and community events, serving countless senior citizens, persons with disabilities and veterans. This service benefits people who might have difficulty getting to a Driver Services facility.

The Mobile Driver Services facility provides the same services offered at Driver Services facilities. In addition to ID cards, driver's licenses and renewal stickers, the mobile unit issues corrected and duplicate licenses, and administers written examinations and vision screenings.

For more information, please call 1-800-252-2904.

Winter Driving Tips

- Wear sunglasses designed to cut down sun glare off the snow.
- Keep your windshield clean and streak free.
- Turn on your headlights when using your windshield wipers. This is Illinois law and it will improve your ability to see and to be seen.
- If you're planning a long trip or vacation, plan frequent rest stops.
- Have emergency items inside the car, not in the trunk. Extra blankets, food, matches, a coffee can (for melting snow for drinking water) and a first aid kit.
- Plan your trip ahead of time. Know where you're going, how to get there, and use a navigator, if possible. Don't read the road map while your driving.
- Let someone know when you're departing, the route you are taking and when you expect to arrive. Call them upon arrival.

