



THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

THOMAS DUANE  
SENATOR, 29TH DISTRICT

CHAIR:  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEES:  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
CODES  
CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME & CORRECTION  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,  
PARKS & RECREATION  
FINANCE  
MENTAL HEALTH &  
DEVELOPMENT DISABILITIES  
RULES  
SOCIAL SERVICES

PLEASE RESPOND TO:  
 322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001  
PHONE: (212) 633-8052  
FAX: (212) 633-8096  
  
 ROOM 430  
STATE CAPITOL  
ALBANY, NY 12247  
PHONE: (518) 455-2451  
FAX: (518) 455-6846

August 16, 2010

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
c/o Stamp Development  
United States Postal Service  
1735 North Lynn St. Suite 5013  
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Re: **Harvey Milk Postage Stamp**

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the issuance of a commemorative United States postage stamp honoring the late San Francisco Board of Supervisors member Harvey Milk. As the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California, Milk helped open doors for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in the United States; inspired innumerable LGBT Americans to live openly and without shame; and was a champion of the LGBT civil rights movement. He has remained a symbol of activism and an inspiration for countless Americans who continue to strive for equality and justice.

I realize that my life in government, as New York State's first and only openly gay State Senator and previously as one of New York City's two first openly gay City Council members, was made possible by Harvey Milk, who pioneered the vision of an America that represents all of its people. He taught us that LGBT Americans have to come out and demand a voice. Furthermore, Milk's work extended far beyond the LGBT civil rights movement. He was a prime example of an openly-gay person willing and able to serve a diverse constituency and organize broad coalitions against injustice. There is not and never has been a political district that is exclusively gay, and Harvey Milk proved that LGBT elected officials are as capable as any others of serving the people they represent regardless of their sex, race, religion, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic.

President Obama recently awarded Harvey Milk the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom. America's highest civilian honor, it is awarded only to those who make a particularly worthy contribution to the security or national interest of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Similarly, the Governor of the State of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, recently inducted Harvey Milk into the California Hall of Fame to honor his contribution to the state, saying he "embodies California's innovative spirit and has made a mark in history."

I urge the United States Postal Service to follow President Obama and Governor Schwarzenegger's lead and issue a commemorative postage stamp recognizing Harvey Milk as a symbol of justice and human rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas K. Duane".

Thomas K. Duane  
New York State Senate  
29<sup>th</sup> District