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April 23, 2010

Dear Courtiers,

This letter is being sent to enlist your help and support for a very worthy cause. This is to help to urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to select a commemorative stamp for Harvey Milk. The hope is to have this stamp introduced on May 22, 2010, Milk's 80th birthday. As discussed at the ICC meeting in Las Vegas, we would like to enlist the support of the Imperial Court Family to make this come true. Just as we all came together for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, raising over \$100,000, we feel that the Court Family can help to support another landmark undertaking.

This cause originated from the Human Relations Commission of San Diego, with a proposal sent from the 51st District Representative Bob Filner, City Council President Kevin Faulconer and Nicole Murray-Ramirez, recommending that Harvey Milk be honored on a U.S. postage stamp. Representative Bob Filner said, "Our country is just beginning to recognize the full significance of his message of hope and equality. It is my hope that a commemorative postage stamp would serve to further remind Americans to honor Harvey Milk by continuing his work – which remains essential and urgent in our community today."

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee selects up to 25 stamps each year from over 50,000 proposals. It is our hope that we, as a Court Family, can inundate their office with thousands of requests for Harvey Milk Commemorative Stamp. The committee meets in Washington, D.C. four times a year to review these proposals. The committee is comprised of 12 members appointed by the postmaster general. Each meeting focuses on proposals from the last meeting. If a proposal meets the committee's criteria for selection, it is researched and presented as its next meeting. Once recommendations are finalized, they are given to the postmaster, who makes the final decision. When the committee receives many suggestions for a particular stamp, it is more likely to be enacted.

So as you can see we need as many letters sent in as possible from each Court in the U.S. I ask that you enlist your membership, your family, your friends and colleagues to help with this letter writing campaign. The idea is to bombard the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee with thousands of requests for a Harvey Milk commemorative stamp over the next six to twelve months.

Your support of this campaign is needed to increase the success of this campaign. Please see the sample letter listed on the Impcourt website. My only request is that you report the number of letters that are sent. Please report this to harveymilkstampdir@cox.net. I will keep track of the letter writing campaign by number of letters sent by Empires and report this to Nicole the Great.

Please help with this campaign to honor Harvey Milk with a U.S. Commemorative Stamp. For more information you can join a face book group called "Honor Harvey Milk with a U.S. Postage Stamp. This site is moderated and run by Daniel Drent, Chair of Equality Cincinnati Political Action Committee. Also included on his site is information on how the selection process for commemorative stamps is done in more detail. I hope to hear from all Empires very soon with your total number of letters sent. Remember to involve everyone that you know, not just your memberships.

Thank you so much for your help with this campaign.

Sincerely,

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