

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
C/O Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St.
Suite 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

September 07, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the creation of a Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp in honor of Harvey Milk, a man who raised awareness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and through his efforts, promoted understanding, acceptance, and equality.

The United States Postal Service has yet to honor an openly LGBT American. Placing important pioneers throughout our nation's history on a stamp allows all Americans to celebrate their accomplishments. Every community should be a part of this important tradition.

When the public elected Harvey Milk as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, he became the first openly gay man to hold an elected office. Through his advocacy efforts, he quickly became a pioneer in the early march towards equality.

Milk worked tirelessly to promote equality for the LGBT community and built strong coalitions of LGBT groups, labor unions and small-business owners. Through Milk's courageous discussion of the LGBT community, he gave voice to those who were largely invisible.

For his work, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama, and May 21, 2010 was officially declared Harvey Milk Day in the state of California.

Up until the last moments of his life, Milk called for LGBT people to be visible and speak out to end the discrimination against them. Now is the time to include the LGBT community and one of our movement's greatest leaders, Harvey Milk, in this cultural institution. Milk was famously quoted as saying "You gotta give em' hope." This visibility and recognition will inspire LGBT people and youth across the United States – and give them hope.

Sincerely,



Jarrett T. Barrios

President, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)