RICHARD BLUMENTHAL

CONNECTICUT

COMMITTEES:

AGING

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

JUDICIARY

VETERANS' AFFAIRS, RANKING MEMBER

Megan J. Brennan Postmaster General United States Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza Southwest Washington, DC 20260 United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 09, 2016

706 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224–2823 FAX: (202) 224–9673

90 STATE HOUSE SQUARE, TENTH FLOOR HARTFORD, CT 06103 (860) 258–6940 FAX: (860) 258–6958

915 LAFAYETTE BOULEVARD, ROOM 230 BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604 (203) 330-0598 FAx: (203) 330-0608 http://blumenthal.senate.gov

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

In 1948, the United States Postal Service (USPS) first issued a Gold Star Mothers postage stamp. Observance of Gold Star Mothers Day began more than 10 years earlier, in 1936. I write to urge that the USPS re-issue the stamp recognizing and honoring Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Families to reaffirm and revive our nation's longstanding commitment to them.

Gold Star Mothers and Fathers and Families are true national heroes. They deserve our deepest gratitude and respect. Their extraordinary contribution is beyond measure – not merely for their loss, but the comfort they selflessly provide others, and their model of service and sacrifice. In Connecticut, Gold Star Mothers were instrumental in the establishment of the Connecticut Trees of Honor, a living memorial to all who made the ultimate sacrifice during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their strength, courage, resolve, and resilience are remarkable beyond words.

Recognizing that Congress has traditionally approved the issuance of specific stamps, I intend to offer legislation when Congress reconvenes to honor all Gold Star Family members. But in the meantime, the USPS should immediately honor Gold Star Families by reissuing the Gold Star Mothers stamp with a Forever stamp designation.

Sincerely,

and Olamen they

Richard Blumenthal United States Senate