

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 3, 2018

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300  
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

As you consider recommendations for new Forever Stamps in 2021 and beyond, we request that the United States Postal Service (USPS) use its authority to issue a Forever Stamp to honor the service and sacrifice of Gold Star Families. Specifically, we ask that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee pay tribute to the families of fallen servicemembers by prioritizing a Forever Stamp for Gold Star Families in your recommendations to the Postmaster General.

We understand that your Committee adheres to twelve criteria to determine the eligibility of subjects for commemoration on all U.S. stamps and stationary. Gold Star Families are exemplary candidates for this special recognition. For more than 80 years, Gold Star Families have personified the very essence of grit, resolve, and perseverance, while working tirelessly to improve the lives of others who share their unique sacrifice. Permanently honoring Gold Star Families with a Forever Stamp would have widespread national appeal and significance, reaching Americans beyond the population personified by such a stamp.

There are few Americans more worthy of recognition than the men and women in uniform who died defending our country and the family members who honor their legacy. After nearly two decades of war in Iraq and Afghanistan, nearly 7,000 Americans have perished in combat. A Gold Star Families Forever Stamp would serve as a constant reminder of the brave men and women who fought throughout history to keep our country safe, and pay tribute to military families.

There is precedent for approving such a stamp. In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation into law to establish the first Gold Star Mothers stamp to commemorate those who lost loved ones during World War II. Unfortunately, this stamp was designated as a special series commemorative stamp, rather than a permanent stamp, and was eventually discontinued. Honoring Gold Star Families should not come with an expiration date. Although USPS has not yet re-issued a similar stamp, there is no better time to recognize the families who have tragically lost a loved one in combat. A forever stamp for Gold Star Families is a simple, straightforward cause that is worthy of USPS recognition.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure the legacy of Gold Star Families will be honored in years to come.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senate



JONI K. ERNST  
United States Senate