Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Brennan:

For nearly a decade, Mr. Garland Denny, a U.S. Navy veteran, has tirelessly worked to advocate for those who have served our Nation with courage and valor. As Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, we support Mr. Denny's call for a "Stamp out PTSD" semipostal stamp to honor America's veterans. Through increased funding for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) research and treatment in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) we can better serve our nation's heroes. With June being recognized as National PTSD Awareness Month, it is a most appropriate time for the United States Postal Service to take action to benefit the brave men and women who have served in our nation's military.

The USPS has printed and sold various semipostal stamps raising tens of millions of dollars for causes important to every American, which previously were mandated by Congress. In just three years, the Heroes of 2001 stamp raised over ten million dollars to assist the families of emergency workers who lost their lives in the line of duty during the terror attacks on September 11, 2001. The Breast Cancer Awareness stamp, first issued nearly two decades ago, has raised over eighty million dollars to fund critical research, and the Save Vanishing Species stamp has raised over two million dollars since its inception.

As you are aware, the USPS has full authority under the Semipostal Authorization Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-253) to "issue and sell semipostals under this section in order to advance such causes as the Postal Service considers to be in the national public interest and appropriate." In February 2005, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee revised its rules and will no longer consider new semipostal stamps, given the USPS has full authority over these matters. However, in a rule issued by the USPS in 2001, the USPS has decided it will not utilize this authority until the end of the Breast Cancer Awareness stamp sales period.

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The intent of this rule was to prevent an influx of semipostal stamps in the market being created by both Congress and the USPS, but the USPS has not revised the 2001 rule since Congress has officially stopped mandating new semipostal stamps.

As of today, there are currently two semipostal stamps available through the USPS; the Breast Cancer Awareness stamp, and the Save Vanishing Species stamp. Congress will no longer issue new semipostal stamps, and the USPS has previously sold three semipostal stamps simultaneously and with great success. We urge you to amend the 2001 rule pertaining to semipostal stamps and promptly begin consideration of a stamp to honor America's veterans. The proceeds of the "Stamp out PTSD" semipostal stamp should be directed to PTSD programs within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

According to the VA, up to twenty percent of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom experience PTSD. For those who served in Desert Storm, roughly twelve percent experience PTSD, and the number increases drastically for our Vietnam Veterans. The creation of the "Stamp out PTSD" semipostal stamp, which will benefit our Nation's veterans, is certainly "in the national public interest and appropriate."

We look forward to working closely with you in this effort to support the brave men and women who served our Nation and laid such a costly sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator

Richard Burr
U.S. Senator

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

Gary Peters
United States Senator

Mark Pocan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Steve Knight
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sean Patrick Maloney
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Blake Farenthold
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

George Holding
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Ryan Zinke
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Walter Jones
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

David Rouzer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John Culberson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Patrick Tiberi
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

John Shimkus
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Phil Roe
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Earl "Buddy" Carter
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Renee Ellmers
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Dan Newhouse
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Bill Johnson
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Peter King
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Frank Guinta
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Charles Boustany, Jr.
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Mike Bishop
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Bradley Byrne
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Bill Posey
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Joe Wilson
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