



PETITION IN SUPPORT
OF A “MOE BILLER”
POSTAGE STAMP

Name

City, _____

State,

Zip

Signature

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal black lines running across the width of the page. The lines are thin and consistent in thickness. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

April 1, 2014

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Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U. S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, D. C. 20260-3501

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Dear Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee:

We contend that the subject matter of the labor movement in general, and the postal labor movement in specific, has not been dealt with adequately with mail-use stamps or commemorative stamps. The fact is that the labor movement has had, and continues to have, a significant impact on American history and culture. As a result of the actions of committed labor leaders, there have been advances in every area of society. The beneficial impact and the many positive gains that workers have achieved should be honored in this nation. Therefore, we are recommending that American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO President Emeritus, Mr. Morris "Moe" Biller, champion of workers' rights, women's rights, civil rights and human rights, be the subject of a mail-use stamp and/or commemorative stamp.

Mr. Biller was born on November 5th, 1915 in New York City. He graduated with honors from Seward Park High School and attended Brooklyn College and City College of New York. His postal career began in 1937, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, at what is now known as the Knickerbocker Station. At the time, Mr. Biller was a substitute clerk earning 65 cents an hour. There was no vacation or sick pay and he was not guaranteed a minimum number of hours of work. Mr. Biller had to leave the building to use the bathroom. Moe's goal was to improve the conditions of those around him. Mr. Biller did wartime service in the Army's Adjutant General Corps, during which he was stationed in Europe while he was employed at the Post Office. As a unionist from the beginning, Moe held numerous local positions, including chairman of the Membership Committee, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Executive Vice-President. He was elected president of the 25,000 member Manhattan-Bronx Postal Workers Union (now called the New York Metro APWU). He was also elected as the leader of 340,000-members of the APWU for more than two decades. He was a leader in the Labor Movement, Civil Rights and the Women Rights Movement. Mr. Biller died on September 5, 2003 at the age of 87.

We believe that Mr. Biller's contributions to the labor movement and society as a whole merit this recommendation as Mr. Biller's achievements go well beyond the postal arena. This stamp proposal is timely, relevant, interesting, and educational.

We believe that this proposal meets your requirements in the following manner:

1. The labor movement is a uniquely American subject. Without Mr. Biller who had a passion to better the plight of workers, Postal Workers would still be working in unsafe, unhealthy, underpaid, and unfair working conditions. Without Mr. Biller's actions, Americans without full educational opportunities would not have been able to earn a decent living and make it better for next generations. Earning a decent living wage at the Postal Service enabled many workers to send their children to college, raise families in decent neighborhoods with decent schools and to participate in the American dream. These are accomplishments that otherwise would not have been possible for people with meager beginnings. The advantage of being a worker who earned a decent wage caused a stark change in the culture of minorities who previously had to turn to less desirable occupations. Mr. Biller cared deeply and passionately about the welfare of the union members he served and the Postal Service for which he worked. Mr. Biller's passion in this regard was acknowledged when upon being notified of his death, and then Postmaster General John Potter ordered that flags at all postal facilities be flown at half-staff.
2. Moe was a pioneer who created the modern labor movement for federal and postal employees, including veterans. The Postal Service is the second largest employer of veterans, especial disabled veterans. Mr. Biller was instrumental in creating a postal workforce that rose to the ranks of the middle class. This rise from poverty helped the country as postal workers spent their money in the United States and thereby helped the economy.
3. We suggest a commemorative stamps honoring Mr. Biller to be issued to celebrate him for one or all of the following reasons: 1) His birth on November 5, 1915; 2) Mr. Biller's being elected National APWU President in 1980 and re-elected six successive times or; 3) Any of his historic achievements are outlined below.
4. Mr. Biller was a public figure. He served on the Boards of numerous charitable and civic organizations including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, United Way International, the National Advisory Council to the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, the Advisory Board of Cornell University's Trade Union Women's Studies Program, the Advisory Council of Empire State College, the Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health, and the National Board of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. He received countless honors for his good works, including the 1979 Community Service Award from the New

York Central Labor Council and, in 1982 the Spirit of Life Award from the City of Hope National Medical Center. In 1999, Moe received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum Urban Pioneer Award.

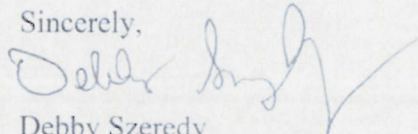
5. Mr. Biller also contributed to American life, history, and culture in the following ways: 1) His fiery speech kept his members from crossing the picket line in the First Postal Strike in New York on March 17, 1970. This was the first strike in the history of the nation's postal service and it spread to 30 major cities with more than 200,000 postal employees taking part. In an effort to end the job action, President Richard Nixon offered the workers amnesty and they had been assured of a huge pay raise. Soon thereafter, Congress passed the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, which created the United States Postal Service; 2) Mr. Biller's courage in surviving the witch hunt known as McCarthyism; 3) Mr. Biller's courage in standing up for Hatch Act rights; 4) Being the first labor leader in America to embrace the cause of Civil Rights for minorities; 5) His being one of the very first to champion full rights for women within CLUW Coalition of Labor Union Women and supporting a women's place in her union assisting APWU/POWER Post Office Women for Equal Rights as an official committee to assist in helping women move up into leadership positions. He was also the first President to appoint a woman to a national position and to assign a woman to chair a national convention; 6) His establishing the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Task Force in 1988 and; 7) Mr. Biller being the only union president to go on campus and speak on behalf of students at Gallaudet University during their drive for the appointment of the first deaf person as President of the University.

6. Mr. Biller strengthened collective bargaining rights. The no lay-off clause that still exists today was a major achievement as well as the many advancements in wages, and benefits. His historic leadership helped shape other labor unions as well, benefiting workers around the world. His work reflects the nation's diverse population and the struggle of all workers today.

Mr. Biller's contributions have positively influenced the labor movement and touched all the American people in one way or the other. Moe Biller, a union scrapper who battled postmasters and presidents to lead postal workers out of poverty with strikes, protests and six decades of hard-nosed bargaining that made him America's best-known postal union leader. Accordingly, we request that his accomplishments be acknowledged with a stamp.

If more information is needed, please contact me at 1300 L Street N. W.
Washington, D.C 20005 or 202-842-4250.

Sincerely,



Debby Szeredy
Executive Vice President