

Date:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
C/O Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington DC 20260-3501

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

I respectfully request that commemorative stamps be issued soon honoring three LGBTQ+ icons for their work in the LGBTQ+ movement for civil rights and equality, **Jose Sarria, Marsha P Johnson** and **Sylvia Rivera**.

José Sarria 1922-2013 José Julio Sarria – WW2 veteran, drag performer, political activist, and a community leader for the LGBTQ+ and Latinx communities. He was the first openly gay person to run for elected office in the United States in 1961 and was involved in the founding of multiple LGBTQ+ organizations including the League for Civil Education, the Society for Individual rights and the International Imperial Court System. The Imperial Court System now exists as chapters in 70 cities across United States, Canada and Mexico. It is one of the largest LGBTQ+ oriented charitable fundraising organizations in existence. He worked for most of his life to affect change in this regard, which he did in many ways.

Marsha P. Johnson 1945-1992: Marsha P. Johnson was an activist, self-identified drag queen, performer, and survivor. She was a prominent figure in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. She was initially referred to as 'Black Marsha' which later evolved to Marsha P. Johnson. The "P" stood for "Pay It No Mind," which is what Marsha would say in response to questions about her gender. As trans awareness is now more accessible to the world, we are grateful for Marsha's defining role as a trailblazer in diversity and the spectrum of gender identity. Marsha Johnson and Sylvia Rivera cofounded the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) organization which offered shelter and support to the trans community. Her life and untimely death resulted in her legacy of hero status for LGBTQ+ humans worldwide.

Sylvia Rivera 1951-2002: Latina Civil rights pioneer Sylvia Rivera along with close friend Marsha P. Johnson was a veteran of the 1969 Stonewall uprising, Sylvia was a tireless advocate for all those who had been marginalized as the "gay rights" movement has mainstreamed. Sylvia fought hard against the exclusion of transgender people from the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act in New York, and was a loud and persistent voice for the rights of people of color and low-income queer and trans people. The Sylvia Rivera Law Project continues Sylvia's work by centralizing issues of systemic poverty and racism, and prioritizing the struggles of queer and trans people who face the most severe and multifaceted discrimination.

Please give serious consideration to this worthy cause Thank you.

Sincerely,