

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2025

Dr. Joseph Kelley, Chair  
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260

The Honorable David Steiner  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Chairman Kelley and Postmaster General Steiner,

We write this letter in strong support of the creation of a commemorative stamp honoring the 200th birthday of the *Freedom's Journal*.

Founded in 1827, in Lower Manhattan, the *Freedom's Journal* emerged as a symbol of empowerment as the first African American-owned and operated newspaper in the United States. It launched the same year that slavery was abolished in New York State, to counter the negative and damaging portrayals of African Americans prevalent in newspapers of the time. The *Freedom's Journal* served as a vital space for the African American community to strengthen connections within the Black diaspora, as it circulated throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Haiti, along with 11 states and the District of Columbia. The newspaper broadened its readers' awareness of world events, documented African American accomplishments and injustices, and advocated for civil rights.

While the newspaper ceased publication in 1829, its two-year existence laid the groundwork for a vibrant network of African American journalism and empowered African Americans to resist racist and dehumanizing views. Between the appearance of the first publication in 1827 and the end of the Civil War, 40 African American-owned newspapers and magazines began operating. This includes iconic abolitionist Frederick Douglass' *The North Star*, which promoted the end of slavery and the advancement of equality for African Americans. By 1915, more than 1,876 African American newspapers operated in the United States. Its impact is undeniable and a testament to the resilience of the African American community.

In light of the sweeping rollbacks in key policies that once championed the recognition, protection, and advancement of African Americans, we find it is more crucial than ever before to honor and uplift the legacy of this pioneering African American newspaper. The *Freedom's Journal* not only chronicled and fought against racial stereotypes but also fostered community and galvanized generations to take action against prejudice. African American history is undeniably American history, deeply intertwined with the nation's struggles, triumphs, and identity. It must be taught and understood as an integral, indispensable part of the American story.

Given The *Freedom's Journal's* significant contribution to the newspaper industry and African American history, we ask the Committee to give careful consideration to a postage stamp commemorating the 200th birthday of The *Freedom's Journal*. This critical milestone deserves recognition, not only for its historical significance but for the vital role it played in shaping African American identity and advocacy. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



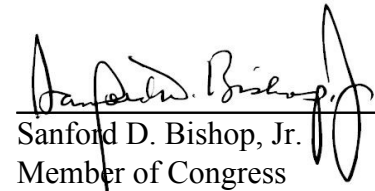
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



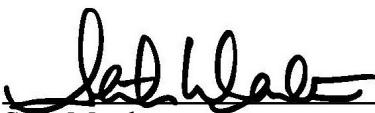
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



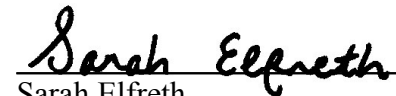
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

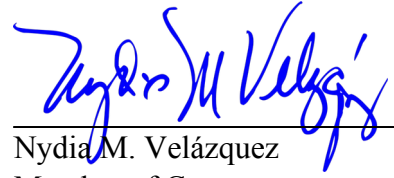


Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress (OH-03)



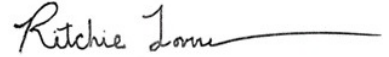
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



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Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



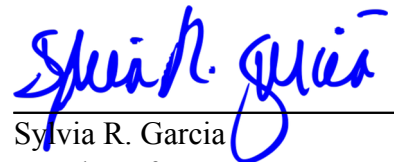
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



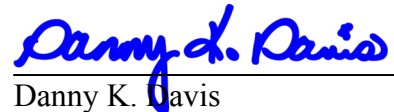
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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



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Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



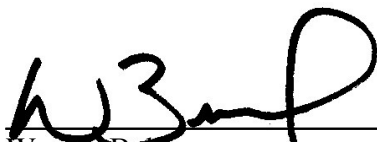
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



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Wesley Bell  
Member of Congress