

Petition for a Martha Matilda Harper Commemorative Stamp

We, the undersigned, believe that women are grossly under-represented on U. S. stamps:

- Over 5,211 stamps have been issued, of which 1,722 are commemorative.
- Less than 10% of commemorative stamps (133) feature women or women's issues**

We hereby petition to have the creator of modern franchising, Martha Matilda Harper, appear on a commemorative stamp. As a poor servant, she transformed her destiny and that of other working-class women by giving them ownership opportunity. Begun in 1891, her worldwide franchise empire (with over 500 shops) represented a new business model and demonstrated that business could be used for social change. Franchising now dominates the way we retail and generates annually over a trillion dollars.

Only one other businesswomen, Madame C. J. Walker, has appeared on a stamp, and her stamp is categorized under Black Heritage. Female entrepreneurs represent the fastest growing segment of business ownership today. If the Looney Tunes characters, including Daffy Duck, can be celebrated on American stamps, so too should admirable, innovative leaders like Martha Matilda Harper.

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Please return to Mary Montefeldt, 1230 Crown Point, Webster, NY 14580

By 12/31/10 Thank you!

Website access: www.marthamatildaharper.org

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