

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 8, 2012

Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 10804  
Washington, DC 20260-3500

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

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe & the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

We are writing to respectfully encourage you to continue with plans for the upcoming War of 1812 stamp series and approve the previously submitted design for the Battle of Lake Erie Stamp, in time for the bicentennial anniversary next year.

During the summer of 1813, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry assumed command of a small fleet of ships being built inside Presque Isle Bay located in Erie, Pennsylvania. Upon arriving to his new post, Commodore Perry found that the American fleet was under-sized and under-gunned. This was compounded by the general shortage of supplies and troops.

Despite these pressing issues, Commodore Perry and his fleet remained on the attack, even though his own flagship, the USS *Lawrence*, was continuously raked with enemy fire. After transferring his "Don't Give Up The Ship" flag to the USS Brig *Niagara*, Commodore Perry broke the British lines, disabling many of their vessels. The battle resulted in the surrender of the British fleet on Lake Erie, when Commodore Perry wrote his famous words, "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."

The impact of the battle was dramatic, as the British control of water routes around Lake Erie had been broken. Combined with the withdrawal of the British land campaign, the American forces were able to retake much of the Michigan Territory and relieve Ohio and Indiana from Native American raids. The Flagship *Niagara* remains an important element in the history of Erie, Pennsylvania and the War of 1812. Today, the Flagship *Niagara* remains docked at the Erie Maritime Museum.

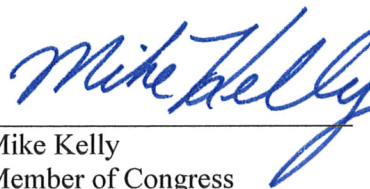
Having greatly reduced the threat of invasion from the northwest, the Battle of Lake Erie is unmistakably one of the most important moments of the War of 1812. For these reasons, we believe it is vital that the second stamp in the War of 1812 anniversary series be approved and made available next year, exactly 200 years after this important American victory.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,



Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress