

Date:

My Address:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee  
Stamp Development  
US Postal Service  
1735 North Lynn St. Rm 5013  
Arlington VA 22209-6432

Dear Stamp Committee Members:

I recommend that you nominate Lawrence Joel, a true American War Hero, for a commemorative postage stamp. Lawrence Joel is the *first African-American combat MEDIC* to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award for valor. Furthermore, at the time Sgt. Joel received his Medal of Honor, he was the *first Combat-Medic* to receive the Medal of Honor since the Spanish American War.

In addition to receiving the 'Medal of Honor,' Lawrence Joel has more than twenty military medals. Other distinguished medals include the Silver Star Medal, the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal resulting from two tours of duty in the Vietnam War. Furthermore, of little known fact, is Lawrence Joel posthumously received a second 'Medal of Honor' from the Royal Australian Government, 173<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Chapter, Country of Australia, since Australian soldiers fought along side U.S. Soldiers as a coalition force in the Vietnam War. When Lawrence Joel gave medical aid "under intense enemy fire" on the battlefield, he gave aid to both U.S. Soldiers and Australian Soldiers. Since Lawrence Joel's death in 1984, he has been well remembered by Institutions and many millions of Americans. Inclusive in his legacy are the following honors.



Table 1. Honors

LAWRENCE JOEL HEALTH AND DENTAL CLINIC  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA

page2 - Honors continued

LAWRENCE JOEL HEALTH AND DENTAL CLINIC  
FORT MCPHERSON, GEORGIA

LAWRENCE JOEL THEATRE  
WINSTON SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

LAWRENCE JOEL AUDITORIUM  
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

LAWRENCE JOEL MONUMENT AND JOEL DRIVE  
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY

LAWRENCE JOEL VETERANS MEMORIAL COLISEUM  
WINSTON SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

LAWRENCE JOEL AMERICAN LEGION  
WINSTON SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA

LAWRENCE JOEL MEMORIAL  
(includes all Medal of Honor Recipients)  
VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

LAWRENCE JOEL  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Since Congress has authorized BRAC Military Base Closing, two facilities named in Honor of Lawrence Joel will close their doors. These facilities are 'Lawrence Joel Health and Dental Clinic' at Fort McPherson, Georgia and 'Lawrence Joel Auditorium' at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. A commemorative postage stamp honoring Lawrence Joel is a pictured symbol to keep him alive in the hearts of millions of Americans who wish to honor his legacy. Lawrence Joel, a man of very humble beginnings, had a twenty-seven year exemplary military career. His legacy leaves a permanent imprint that contributes to the rich heritage of our County; it is a story of inspiration in U.S. Military History and African-American history for future generations. Lawrence Joel's Medal of Honor Citation (attachment) is an inclusive part of this letter.

In view of the above mentioned, thank you to the Stamp Committee Members for considering a "Lawrence Joel Postage Stamp," as submission for either a Military Postage Stamp or African-American Postage Stamp.

Sincerely,

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp6c. Joel demonstrated indomitable courage, determination, and professional skill when a numerically superior and well-concealed Viet Cong element launched a vicious attack which wounded or killed nearly every man in the lead squad of the company. After treating the men wounded by the initial burst of gunfire, he bravely moved forward to assist others who were wounded while proceeding to their objective. While moving from man to man, he was struck in the right leg by machine gun fire. Although painfully wounded his desire to aid his fellow soldiers transcended all personal feeling. He bandaged his own wound and self-administered morphine to deaden the pain enabling him to continue his dangerous undertaking. Through this period of time, he constantly shouted words of encouragement to all around him. Then, completely ignoring the warnings of others, and his pain, he continued his search for wounded, exposing himself to hostile fire; and, as bullets dug up the dirt around him, he held plasma bottles high while kneeling completely engrossed in his life saving mission. Then, after being struck a second time and with a bullet lodged in his thigh, he dragged himself over the battlefield and succeeded in treating 13 more men before his medical supplies ran out. Displaying resourcefulness, he saved the life of 1 man by placing a plastic bag over a severe chest wound to congeal the blood. As 1 of the platoons pursued the Viet Cong, an insurgent force in concealed positions opened fire on the platoon and wounded many more soldiers. With a new stock of medical supplies, Sp6c. Joel again shouted words of encouragement as he crawled through an intense hail of gunfire to the wounded men. After the 24 hour battle subsided and the Viet Cong dead numbered 410, snipers continued to harass the company. Throughout the long battle, Sp6c. Joel never lost sight of his mission as a medical aidman and continued to comfort and treat the wounded until his own evacuation was ordered. His meticulous attention to duty saved a large number of lives and his unselfish, daring example under most adverse conditions was an inspiration to all. Sp6c. Joel's profound concern for his fellow soldiers, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

