



The American Hungarian Federation

FOUNDED 1906

April 20, 2004

Dr. Virginia Noelke, Chairperson
The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670
Washington, DC 20260-2437

Dear Dr. Noelke:

I write today to petition you and the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to consider issuance of a stamp honoring the heroism of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The year 2006 will mark an important milestone: *the 50th anniversary of one of the noblest efforts of the 20th Century.*

On October 23, 1956, the little satellite nation of Hungary rebelled against the indomitable Soviet Empire. David took on Goliath. This freedom-loving nation had borne the yoke of communism for 11 years and strove to throw off the oppression of a Soviet-backed dictatorship. It was assumed that once a nation came under the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union, there was no escape. The world gasped in amazement as it watched events unfold in Hungary. Initially, the efforts of the Hungarian people were successful. They tasted freedom again for but a few days. It did not take long for the Soviet Union, seeing that no military assistance from the West was forthcoming, to come back with an overwhelming force to crush the revolution in blood. The revolt failed in securing the freedom of Hungary in 1956, but it left a mortal wound in the wall of the iron curtain that eventually fell, also in Hungary, in 1989.

Though Hungary may be small in size, her contributions to the efforts of US and world freedom are paramount from the fathers of the US Cavalry; US Aerospace; binary and the modern computer; and the Manhattan Project and the Hydrogen Bomb to name a few (see [The Hungary Page](#)). Many great Americans of Hungarian descent immigrated after the revolution to add their own contributions to this great country. Their children, like me, continue to do their best as well. The Hungarian freedom fight of 1956 showed the world that the Soviet Union was not invincible; Hungary's efforts significantly contributed to the collapse of one of the most brutal systems the world has ever known. It is for this reason that I would like to ask the Committee to consider issuing a stamp to commemorate this monumental event, the Hungarian revolution of 1956.

The American Hungarian Federation and the over 1.5 million strong Hungarian American community it serves greatly appreciates your consideration to commemorate the thousands that bravely fought and died for freedom. 2006 also marks the World Stamp Exhibit to be held in Washington D.C. We are inviting the Hungarian Post Office and would be honored to show such a stamp in the collection.

Sincerely,

Bryan Dawson, Vice President
Co-chair, 1956 Commemoration Sub-Committee

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