

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
And Government Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gary C. Peters  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
And Government Affairs  
442 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member Peters:

We write in support of H.R. 3847, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 West Poythress Street in Hopewell, Virginia, as the “Reverend Curtis West Harris Post Office Building”.

Reverend Curtis West Harris was born in Dendron, Virginia, on July 1, 1924, and raised in Hopewell, Virginia, where he was eventually employed at Allied Chemical. After successfully suing his employer for violating an executive order prohibiting racial discrimination, Reverend Harris began what would become his lifelong fight for civil rights. Throughout his many years in service to others, Reverend Harris engaged in peaceful protests and civil disobedience and held various leadership roles in numerous civil rights organizations, including heading the Virginia chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for more than 30 years.

As a respected member of the Hopewell community, Reverend Harris served as pastor of Hopewell’s Union Baptist Church for nearly fifty years and was elected to the Hopewell City Council from 1986 to 2012. In 1998, he became the first Black mayor of the City of Hopewell. After many years of dutiful service to the City of Hopewell, Harris died on December 10, 2017, and was buried in the same cemetery he fought to integrate.

Naming this post office after Reverend Harris would honor the memory of this civil rights leader and icon. We are proud to offer our support for this bill and appreciate your consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Marshall at [Lauren\\_Marshall@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Lauren_Marshall@warner.senate.gov) or Norman Ellis at [Norman\\_Ellis@kaine.senate.gov](mailto:Norman_Ellis@kaine.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



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Tim Kaine  
United States Senator