

For Immediate Release – July 13, 2012

Contact: LuAnn Canipe (202) 225-3032 /luann.canipe@mail.house.gov

U.S. Rep. Brad Miller Calls for John Hope Franklin Commemorative Stamp

Washington, D.C. – **U.S. Rep. Brad Miller** and other lawmakers sent a letter today to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee calling for the issuance of a commemorative stamp to honor the life and legacy of the great American historian, Dr. John Hope Franklin.

"Dr. Franklin used the study of history to promote equality and fight against racial discrimination." **Rep. Miller** said. "He was an American treasure more than worthy of all the accolades and honors bestowed upon him."

The full text of the letter is below:

July 13, 2012

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

We are writing to request the issuance of a commemorative stamp to honor the life and legacy of Dr. John Hope Franklin whose distinguished career as a historian, scholar, and civil rights activist provides a greater understanding of our history and shared experiences as Americans.

Dr. Franklin's impact and influence on humanity is immeasurable. He helped to write the brief for the historic *Brown vs. Board of Education* case which led to the desegregation of our nation's schools. In 1997, Franklin was appointed chair of President Clinton's Initiative on Race. His book *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* is considered to be the "definitive account of the black experience in America." The book helped give credibility to the study of African-American history, a field in which he was the dominating force for nearly 60 years.

Dr. Franklin was an inspiration. He taught at leading institutions in the U.S. and abroad. He served on national commissions and delegations. Franklin was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 2000, Duke University opened the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies in his honor. He was the first and only African-American to receive the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award. In 2006, he was the co-recipient of the John W. Kluge Prize for the Study of Humanity.

Dr. Franklin's legacy will endure for generations. His commitment to equality and truth helped ensure the contributions and experiences of African-Americans were not lost in American history. It is only fitting that the contributions of such an American icon be honored with a commemorative stamp.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brad Miller

Rep. G.K. Butterfield

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay

Rep. Steve Cohen

Rep. Danny K. Davis

Rep. Donna Edwards

Rep. Chaka Fattah

Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.

Rep. Henry "Hank" Johnson

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson

Rep. Barbara Lee

Rep. Mike McIntyre

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton

Rep. David Price

Rep. Charles B. Rangel

Rep. Laura Richardson

Rep. John Sullivan

Rep. Maxine Waters

Rep. Melvin L. Watt

Rep. Frederica S. Wilson

###