



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Council Session

## Item C4

### **Proclamation "National Braille Readers are Leaders Week" April 20-27, 2009**

*The ability to read and write Braille competently and efficiently is the key to education, employment, and success for the blind. Mayor Hornady has proclaimed the week of April 20-27, 2009 as "National Braille Readers Are Leaders Week". See attached information and PROCLAMATION.*

**Staff Contact: Mayor Hornady**

**GRAND ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL**

**\*\***

**THE HONORABLE  
MAJOR  
MARGARET HORNADY**

**COMMEMORTIVE WEEK  
FOR THE PROMOTION  
OF  
BRAILLE READER ARE LEADERS  
CAMPAIGN**

**NE-NFB-GRAND ISLAND CHAPTER  
SIBBY LE BEAU SEC/ TRES  
308-384-9951  
E-MAIL- MAHTO1@MSN.COM  
MARCH 24, 2009**

**March 25, 2009**

**Grand Island  
City Council**

**ref: Braille Literacy Week  
For the U.S.A. and Nebraska**

**Honorable Mayor Margaret Hornady**

**Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council,**

**I am, Sibby Le Beau. And I represent the NE-National Federation of the Blind-Grand Island Chapter.**

**It would give us much pleasure to request and have your influence as part of this historic initiative to bring Braille Literacy to all the blind children and adults in America who need it. There can be no doubt that the ability to read and write Braille competently and efficiently is the key to education, employment, and success for the blind.**

**Despite the undisputed value of Braille, however, only 10 percent of the blind children in the United States are currently learning it. Our society would never accept a 10 percent literacy rate among sighted children it should not accept such an outrageously low literacy rate among the blind.**

**The [Braille Readers are Leaders Campaign] with the aid of influential support from Governor Hieneman, and of course in our county and city, you the leaders of our communities, your influential support combined along with the Governor's will help reverse the downward trend in Braille Literacy and ensure that equal opportunities in education and employment are available to all of the nation's blind.**

**I am requesting of this assembly : That one week—preferably 20 April to 27 April, 2009 in honor of Louis Braille, whose invention brought much to the blind world and to set this time aside also, for National Federation Of the Blind's —Braille Readers are Leaders-Week . Attached is information concerning the above.**

**Thank you for your time and support**

**Sibby Le Beau Sec/Treasure Grand Island Chapter -NE-Nfb  
Contact:  
2231 N. Sheridan Ave,  
Grand Island NE 68803-1930**

**Telephone—308-384-9951 —e-mail mahto1@msn.com**



Reverse  
Design



Obverse  
Design

## 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar Design

### Coin Description

Director of the United States Mint, Ed Moy, describes the coin as follows:

The coin obverse, or heads side of the coin, features a handsome image of Louis Braille from the neck up, facing forward. This image captures him as the energetic, confident and successful young man he was, and the image fills the center of the coin. He is wearing a jacket and collar in the style of the early 1800s and his hair is fashionably wavy.

The coin also bears the inscription "Liberty" along the curve of the coin above his head and the words "Louis Braille" underneath his portrait. "In God We Trust" is inscribed to the right of Braille's image at check level. The date "1809" appears on the left and "2009" appears on the right, both at

3/22/2009

collar height.

On the coin reverse, the most prominent image is a boy who looks to be about 8 or 9 sitting at a table reading a book in Braille. He is wearing a T-shirt and has the top of a cane resting on his left arm. The word "Braille" in Braille code-abbreviated B-R-I, as it is in Braille code-is produced on the upper half of the coin. The spacing of the letters ensures that the text is no different from printed or written Braille to the touch.

On the left in the background, the word "Independence" is written along the top of a bookshelf full of books. The inscription "United States of America" is at the top of the curve of the coin, "One Dollar" is at the bottom and "E Pluribus Unum" is to the right of the seated child reading Braille.

©2008 All Rights Reserved - Copyright 2008 NFB

2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar The 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, inventor of the Braille system, which is still used by the blind to read and write.

Louis Braille was born in Coupvray, France, near Paris, on January 4, 1809. At the age of three, he lost the sight in his left eye as the result of an accident in his father's workshop. An infection spread to his right eye and he became completely blind by the age of four. At the age of 10, Braille received a scholarship to attend the Royal Institute for Blind Children in Paris, where he became the youngest student. At the school, most instruction was oral, but Braille read books for the blind, which had large letters embossed on the pages.

In 1821, a captain in Napoleon's army, Charles Barbier de la Serre, visited Braille's school and introduced a system he had invented called "night writing." This was a method for communicating on the battlefield at night without having to talk or light a match, which could alert the enemy. It consisted of 12 raised dots which could be combined to represent words by sounds rather than letters. Over the next few months, Braille experimented with different configurations until he found a simpler one using just six dots.

By the age of 15, using a blunt awl (the same type of tool that had injured his left eye 12 years earlier) to punch holes in paper to represent letters, Braille had developed the code that is essentially what we know today as modern Braille. It uses no more than six dots in a "cell" of two columns of up to three dots each to represent letters and contains a system of punctuation and "contractions" to speed reading and writing. It is read by passing the fingers over the raised dots.

Today, Braille has been adapted to almost every known language and is used everywhere from bus stops and maps to music notation and text books. In his native France, Louis Braille's achievement was recognized in 1952 - the

100th anniversary of his death - when his body was moved to Paris and interred in the Pantheon.

Now, for the first time in history, a United States coin features readable Braille. It is available in both proof and uncirculated versions. The obverse (heads) features a portrait of Louis Braille designed by United States Mint Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) Master Designer Joel Iskowitz and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor/Engraver Phebe Hemphill. It is also inscribed with LIBERTY, IN GOD WE TRUST, LOUIS BRAILLE, 1809 and 2009.

The reverse (tails), showing a child reading a book in Braille, was designed by United States Mint AIP Master Designer Susan Gamble and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor/Engraver Joseph Menna. The word Braille (abbreviated Brl in Braille code) is depicted in the upper field. The word INDEPENDENCE is featured on a bookshelf behind the child, in addition to the inscriptions UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ONE DOLLAR and E PLURIBUS UNUM.

Surcharges from sales of the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar are authorized to be paid to the National Federation of the Blind to further its programs to promote Braille literacy.



# The United States Mint

U.S. Department of the Treasury

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Coins and Medals

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2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar Proof Obverse



2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar Proof Reverse

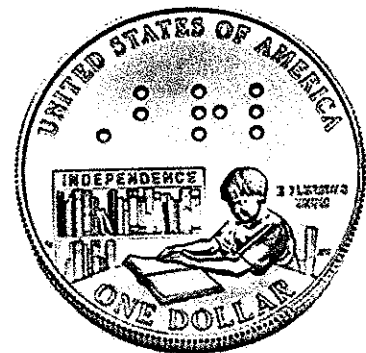


2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar Uncirculated Obverse



*BRAILLE, 1809 and 2009.*

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2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar  
Uncirculated Reverse

Surcharges from sales of the 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar are authorized to be paid to the National Federation of the Blind to further its programs to promote Braille literacy.

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Mar 6,  
2009  
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Braille Alphabet Card

Braille Alphabet Card

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\*Read about our new biography of Louis Braille!

The Case for Braille

See an image of Louis Braille.

Should "Braille" be Capitalized?

Louis Braille

More Braille Links

**Braille Alphabet**

The six dots of the braille cell are arranged and numbered:

1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•

The capital sign, dot 6, placed before a letter makes a capital letter.

1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•

The number sign, dots 3, 4, 5, 6, placed before the characters a through j, makes the numbers 1 through 0. For example: a preceded by the number sign is 1, h is 2, etc.

1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
•	•	••	••	•.	••	••	••	•.	••
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
•	•	••	••	•.	••	••	••	•.	••
u	v	w	x	y	z	Capital Sign	Number Sign	Period	Comma
•	•	••	••	•.	••	•	•	•	•

NATIONAL BRAILLE PRESS INC.  
88 ST. STEPHEN STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02115  
www.nbp.org

The bicentennial of Louis Braille's birth is generating excitement all over the world! National Braille Press has been inundated with requests for our braille alphabet cards and we are a little behind in fulfilling these orders. We are now harnessing the power of our wonderful volunteers and will send out alphabet card orders as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and your support of braille literacy!

This is a visual representation of the braille alphabet without contractions. To conserve space and increase reading speeds, the braille code contains 189 contractions. You can download the alphabet card as a PDF file.

To have a free embossed braille alphabet card mailed to you, fill out this form.

If you are sighted and would like to learn braille -- using your eyes -- order Just Enough to Know Better. Or buy our handy print wall chart of English braille symbols and contractions.

Celebrate the Louis Braille Bicentennial

Also: Beautiful Braille Gift Ideas  
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1	•	•	•
2	•	•	•
3	•	•	•

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
•	•	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	••
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
•	•	••	••	••	••	••	••	••	••
u	v	w	x	y	z	Capital Sign	Number Sign	Period	Comma
••	••	••	••	••	••	•	••	••	•

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		u	v	w	x	y	z	Capital Sign	Number Sign	Period	Contra
		••	••	••	••	••	••	•	••	••	•

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- Also: Beautiful Braille Gift Ideas
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- Braille Alphabet Bracelets



Published on Braille Institute of America (<http://www.brailleinstitute.org>)

## ~~Free Services for Blind and Visually Impaired People~~

Braille Institute offers a wide array of services designed to help people with vision loss lead enriched and fulfilling lives.

A leader in the field since 1919, Braille Institute provides on-site services at five **Regional Centers** as well as more than 170 Outreach Locations throughout Southern California.

Funded entirely by private donations, all of our services are completely free of charge!

### **Child Services**

*In-home programs for parents, designed to help prepare blind and visually impaired children (up to age 5) for success in mainstream community preschools.*

### **Youth & Teen Services**

*Job counseling, enrichment and recreational activities to foster self-confidence and independence in children and young adults, ages 6-18.*

### **Adult Services**

*More than 200 classes and programs in daily living techniques, mobility training, as well as enrichment and personal recreation.*

### **Library Services**

*Braille Institute's award-winning library offers more than 1.1 million volumes in braille and recorded formats.*

### **Public Education & Resources**

*Braille Institute is actively involved in the community and offers a variety of resources and links to partner organizations.*

### **Vistas Store**

*Explore our retail store and its wealth of practical, adaptive items for sale.*

### **Children's Literacy Services**

*A variety of programs designed to build literacy by providing brailled materials to blind and visually impaired children.*

### **Career Services**

*A variety of programs designed to build literacy by providing brailled materials to blind and visually impaired children.*

### **Low Vision Services**

*Assistance for making the most of one's remaining vision.*

### **Braille Publishing**

*An innovator in braille production for 90 years, Braille Institute's full service department is an international leader in the field.*

### **Recorded Media**

*A wide array of audio and video content available for download—including classes, workshops, medical advice and seminars—all designed to enrich lives.*

*This was highlighted on the ORIGINAL for emphasis - that this Services Are Free*

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
City of Grand Island  
State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, since the invention by Louis Braille (1809-1852), the reading and writing code for the blind that bears his name has become the accepted method of reading and writing for the blind the world over; and

WHEREAS, Braille is used to represent not only the alphabets of most written languages, but is also used for mathematical and scientific notation and the reproduction of musical scores; and

WHEREAS, Braille provides people who are blind with the power of knowledge, expanding their opportunities and equipping them with the tools to be productive and imaginative contributors to society; and

WHEREAS, contrary to widely believed myths, Braille is not difficult to learn, nor is reading Braille slower than reading print; and

WHEREAS, while technology has improved the lives of blind people by facilitating quick access to information, no technology can replace Braille literacy, since literacy is the ability to read and to write and to do the two interactively; and

WHEREAS, despite its efficiency, versatility, and universal acceptance by the blind, the rate of Braille literacy in the United States has declined to the point where only 10 percent of blind children are learning to read and write Braille; and

WHEREAS, just as a literacy rate of 10 percent among this nation's sighted children would be rightly viewed as a crisis and as cause for national outrage, the decline in Braille literacy is a crisis and swift action must be taken to reverse this dangerous trend; and

WHEREAS, Braille literacy is the key to independence, productivity, and success for blind people, as evidenced by the fact that while 70 percent of the blind are unemployed, 85 percent of those who are employed use Braille; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress officially recognized the importance of Braille and the magnitude of the Braille literacy crisis in 2006 by passing the Louis Braille Bicentennial-Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act authorizing the striking of a United States silver dollar in commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille; and

WHEREAS,

the National Federation of the Blind, the nation's oldest and largest organization of blind people and the leading advocate for Braille literacy has launched a national "Braille Readers are Leaders" campaign to promote awareness of the importance of Braille and to increase the availability of competent Braille instruction and of Braille reading materials in this country, said campaign to be funded by a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar; and

WHEREAS,

the National Federation of the Blind has today released a comprehensive report entitled *The Braille Literacy Crisis in America-Facing the Truth, Reversing the Trend, Empowering the Blind*, and the United States Mint has this day released the Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar for purchase by the general public.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Margaret Hornady, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the week of April 20-27, 2009 as

**"NATIONAL BRAILLE READERS ARE  
LEADERS WEEK"**

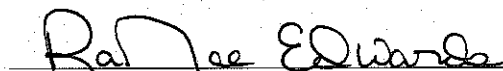
to celebrate the hope, opportunity, and power that literacy in Braille provides to the blind and to our nation. Furthermore, I call upon all public officials, educators, and citizens throughout Grand Island, Nebraska, and this nation to recognize the importance of Braille to the lives of blind people and to assist the National Federation of the Blind in its efforts to increase instruction in and use of Braille in Grand Island, Nebraska, and across the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Grand Island to be affixed this fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Nine.



  
Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

  
RaNae Edwards, City Clerk