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## **JOHN WAYNE TO BE HONORED BY U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ON A POSTAGE STAMP**

WASHINGTON — Legendary actor John Wayne was honored by the U.S. Postal Service with a commemorative stamp design that was unveiled at the John Wayne Cancer Institute Auxiliary's Odyssey Ball, a fund-raising gala for the Institute in Santa Monica, CA, on April 3rd. The stamp will be issued later this year during a special ceremony.

"Commemorating John Wayne's life and career is an honor for the Postal Service," said Richard J. Strasser, Jr., Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, U.S. Postal Service, who unveiled the stamp. "Soon it will be easy for our customers to add this rugged portrait of John Wayne to their cards, letters and packages as he joins other Hollywood greats in the popular Legends of Hollywood stamp series."

"I'm delighted that the Postal Service has chosen to remember our father by issuing a commemorative postage stamp in his honor," said Patrick Wayne, one of John Wayne's seven children and Chairman of the Board, the John Wayne Cancer Institute. "This stamp not only reminds his fans around the world of his accomplishments in life, but also reminds them of our fight against cancer—a fight that continues in his memory through the John Wayne Cancer Institute."

Born Marion Morrison in Winterset, Iowa, on May 26, 1907, Wayne was named after his grandfather, a Civil War veteran. When he was a boy, his family moved to California.

While attending the University of Southern California on a football scholarship, Wayne landed a summer job at Fox studios working in the props department. It was there that he met director John Ford, who would play a key role in his future. John Wayne appeared in many of Ford's classic films, including "Stagecoach," the 1939 movie that made him a star.

John Wayne played many memorable characters: heroic soldiers and revered figures in history, as well as ordinary men with a deep loyalty to country and a strong commitment to justice. His films celebrate courage, patriotism and independence, characteristics that many Americans hold dear. In time, Wayne became a living legend, sparking the public imagination by portraying strong and fearless characters who act from their convictions.



Shortly before Wayne's death on June 11, 1979, legislation was passed that authorized a special Congressional Gold Medal in his honor. The medal, presented posthumously to his family, is titled simply "John Wayne, American."

Now, almost 25 years after his death, John Wayne remains one of America's most beloved celebrities. For the last ten years, Wayne has commanded a top ten spot in the Harris Poll for America's Favorite Movie Star, making him the only deceased celebrity to achieve such a ranking since Harris began asking the question in 1993. A 2001 Gallup Poll went on to select Wayne as the Favorite Movie Star of All Time.

Artist Drew Struzan based his painting for the stamp on a black-and-white publicity still of Wayne taken during the filming of "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" (1962). In that movie, Wayne portrayed rancher Tom Doniphon. The selvaige art, also by Drew Struzan, depicts Wayne starring as Ethan Edwards in the classic film "The Searchers" (1956). The selvaige text reads: "John Wayne (1907-1979) played many memorable roles during his 50-year career, but he is perhaps best known for characters exhibiting the rugged individualism associated with the American cowboy. He won an Academy Award for his role as Rooster Cogburn, the one-eyed marshal in 'True Grit' (1969). In an effort to continue John Wayne's fight against cancer, the John Wayne Foundation was established in his memory."

To see the John Wayne stamp, visit the online Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop) and click on "Release Schedule" in the Collector's Corner.

Current U.S. stamps and stationery, as well as a free catalog, are available by toll-free phone order at 1 800 STAMP-24. In addition, a selection of stamps and other philatelic items is available at the online Postal Store at [www.usps.com/shop](http://www.usps.com/shop). Custom-framed art prints of original stamp art are available at [www.postalartgallery.com](http://www.postalartgallery.com).

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. An independent federal agency, the Postal Service makes deliveries to more than 141 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$68 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. Moreover, today's postage rates will remain stable until at least 2006. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 202 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.

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