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**JOHN WAYNE HITS THE TRAIL AS 10th LEGENDS OF HOLLYWOOD
U.S. POSTAGE STAMP**

U.S. Postal Service Honors the 'Duke' in Popular Stamp Series

WASHINGTON - An image of legendary actor John Wayne is the centerpiece of a new 37-cent commemorative postage stamp issued today by the U.S. Postal Service. The ceremony was held at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. A crowd of family members, invited guests, philatelists and tourists applauded as the 10th entry in the U.S. Postal Service's popular Legends of Hollywood stamp series was dedicated.



"John Wayne played so many memorable characters over the years," said Richard J. Strasser, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President, U.S. Postal Service, the dedicating official for the event. "Courage, justice and rugged individualism; these are the iconic American traits that John Wayne brought to his roles and his life.

The U.S. Postal Service is happy to provide John Wayne's many fans with the chance to share and remember his unique American legacy." The stamp is available only at Grauman's Chinese Theatre and all Los Angeles Post Offices today. Tomorrow, more than 100 million John Wayne stamps will be available at Post Offices and philatelic centers nationwide.

John Wayne remains one of America's most beloved celebrities. In November 2003, he once again commanded a top-ten spot in the annual Harris Poll asking Americans to name their favorite movie star. No other deceased star has achieved such ranking since Harris began asking the question in 1993. In a 2001 Gallup Poll, Americans selected Wayne as their 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).

To see the John Wayne stamp, visit the online Postal Store at 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. Custom-framed prints of original stamp art are available at www.postalartgallery.com.

The John Wayne stamp joins the Legends of Hollywood commemorative stamp series that also honors Marilyn Monroe (1995), James Dean (1996), Humphrey Bogart (1997), Alfred Hitchcock (1998), James Cagney (1999), Edward G. Robinson (2000), Lucille Ball (2001), Cary Grant (2002) and Audrey Hepburn (2003).

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 46 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.