

# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS DEFINITIVE SERIES



The Distinguished Americans series of definitive stamps focuses its attention on citizens whose noteworthy accomplishments had not previously been honored by a postage stamp and also those whose date of passing did not permit issue of one due to the legally required passage of time.

Except for two issues, the denominations of the stamps all meet postage rates higher than the one-ounce first class mail rate. Only one has been issued in other than sheet form, the 23¢ Wilma Rudolph booklet.

Initially, all denominations from 2000 to 2009 were issued in a simple format consisting of an engraved portrait in black with the addition of the honoree's name in red and a word or two identifying minimally some information about him or her. Later issues changed to a colored portrait instead.

In 2011, the 84¢ Oveta Culp Hobby stamp was issued in a totally different format in a larger size, though identified by USPS as part of the series. Then in 2017 a 70¢ issue honoring Robert Panara was differently designed, being a photograph rather than a drawing.

# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

10¢ GENERAL JOSEPH STILLWELL

1883 - 1946



3420

GENERAL JOSEPH STILLWELL BEGAN HIS MILITARY CAREER AT WEST POINT, AND SERVED IN WORLD WAR I. CONSIDERED ONE OF THE ARMY'S MOST CAPABLE COMMANDERS, HE WAS ASSIGNED AS CHIEF OF STAFF TO CHINA'S CHIANG KAI SHEK IN 1939, WHERE HE COMMANDED TROOPS IN THE CHINA-BURMA-INDIA AREA UNTIL THE U.S. ENTERED THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN. HE ULTIMATELY BECAME DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA THEATER OF OPERATIONS. STILLWELL WAS NICK-NAMED "VINEGAR JOE" DUE TO HIS CONFLICT WITH AND ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS SUPERIORS, BUT WAS WELL RESPECTED BY HIS TROOPS DUE TO HIS CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE.



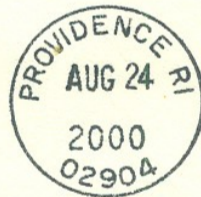
Official  
First Day  
Of Issue

ArtCraft

**GENERAL  
JOSEPH W. STILLWELL**

"Vinegar Joe"

Chief of Staff to Chiang Kai-shek



# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

23¢ WILMA RUDOLPH

1940 - 1994



3422

Booklet Single

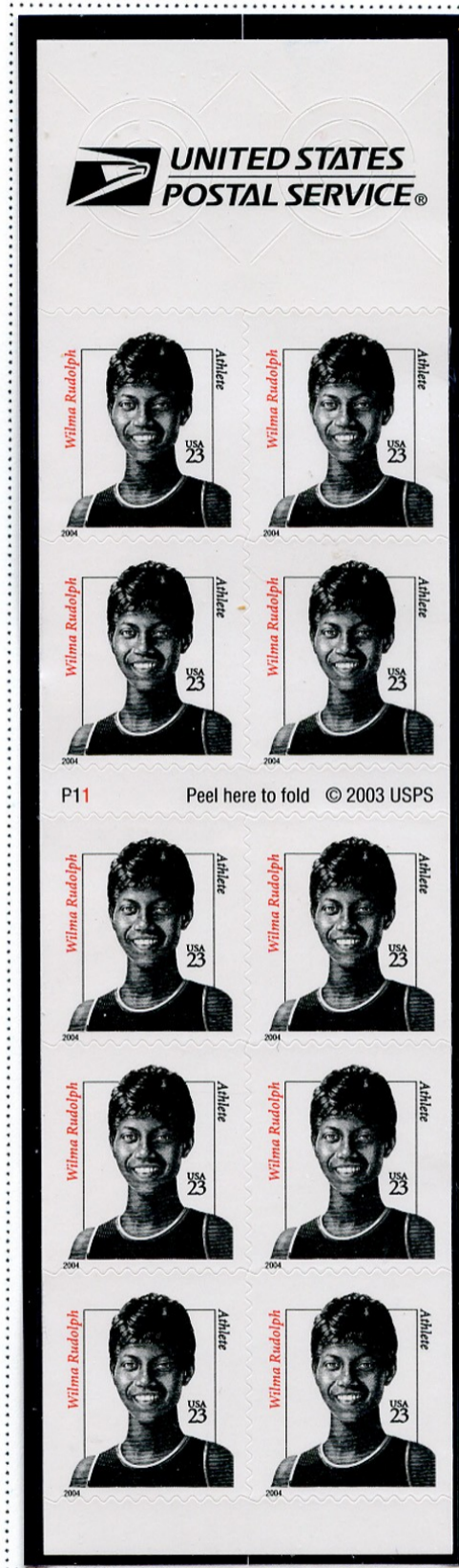


3436

WILMA RUDOLPH WAS THE TWENTIETH OF TWENTY-TWO CHILDREN AND WAS STRICKEN WITH INFANTILE PARALYSIS IN CHILDHOOD, RESULTING IN A TWISTED LEG. THERAPY RESOLVED THIS AND BY HIGH SCHOOL SHE WAS RUNNING COMPETITIVELY. SHE WON A BRONZE MEDAL IN THE 1956 OLYMPICS AND IN 1960 WON THREE GOLD MEDALS AND SET WORLD RECORDS. SHE WAS NAMED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR IN 1960 AND CALLED "THE FASTEST WOMAN ALIVE".

THE BOOKLET OF TEN STAMPS IS DIVISIBLE INTO SEPARATE PANES OF FOUR STAMPS AND SIX STAMPS, THUS THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE THREE DIFFERENT CATALOG NUMBERS FOR THE PANES OF FOUR, SIX AND TEN STAMPS RESPECTIVELY.

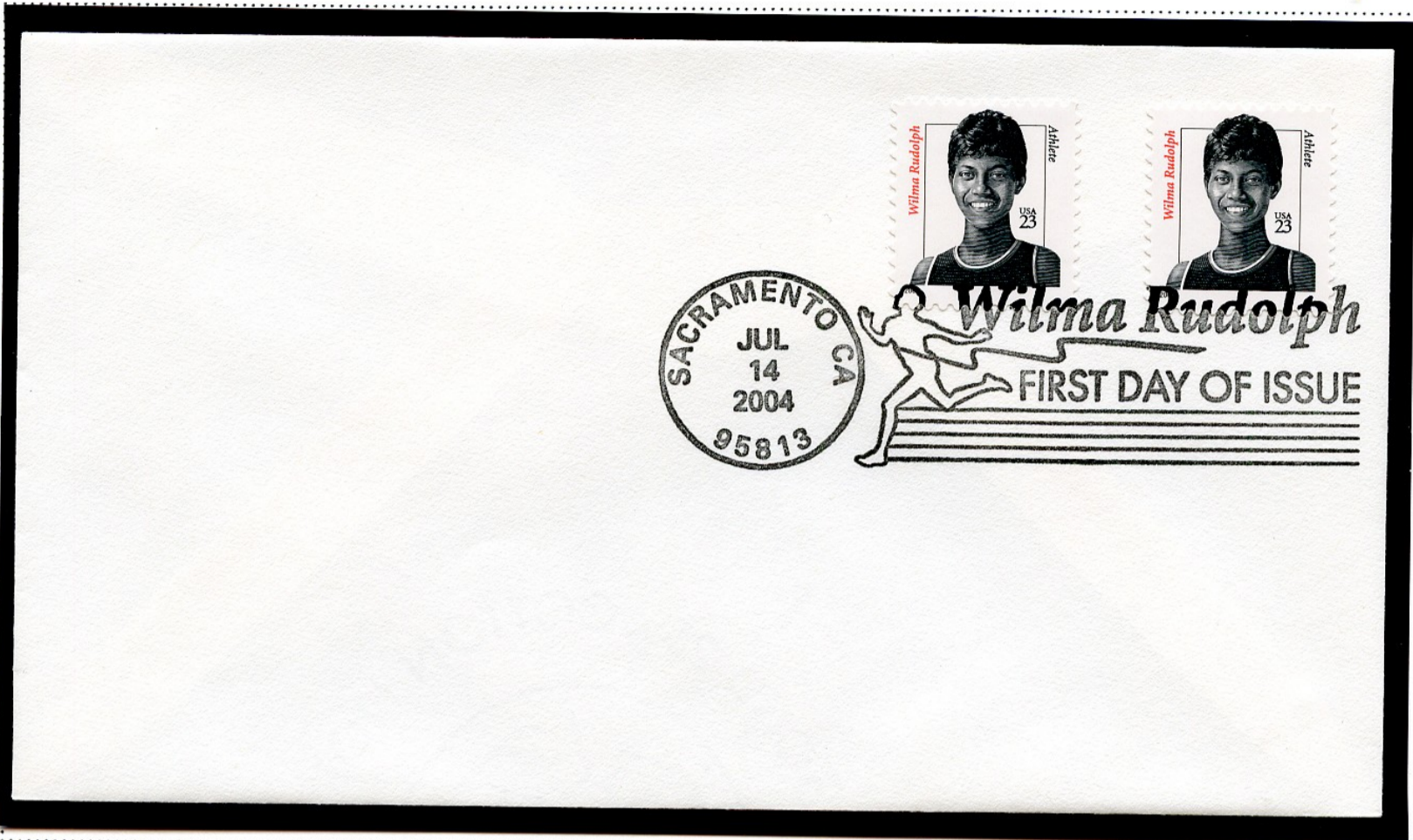
Booklet Stamps



BK279A (3436a, 3436b, 3436c)

# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

23¢ WILMA RUDOLPH



# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

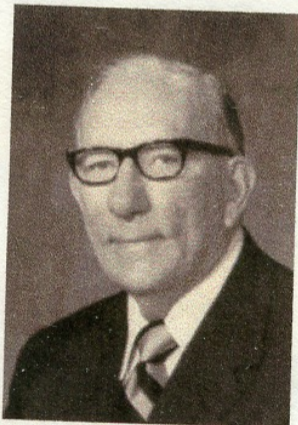
33¢ CLAUDE PEPPER

1900 - 1989



3426

CLAUDE PEPPER WAS AN OUTSPOKEN LIBERAL AND WAS ELECTED TO CONGRESS IN 1936 AND REMAINED UNTIL 1951. HE FULLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S NEW DEAL, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF LABOR LAW. HE RAN FOR THE SENATE IN 1963, WON, AND RETAINED HIS SEAT THERE UNTIL 1981.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

## Distinguished Americans Series

Claude Pepper, wore a toupee until it blew off when he went to greet President Carter at Miami Airport.

struza

# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

57¢ JAMES MICHENER

1907 - 1997



3427A

JAMES MICHENER WAS THE NOTED AUTHOR OF OVER FORTY BOOKS OF FICTION. A CONTINUING THEME IN MANY OF THESE SAGAS WAS THE STORY OF SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF A FAMILY IN A PARTICULAR LOCALE. SEVERAL OF THESE BECAME MAJOR STAGE PRODUCTIONS AND MOTION PICTURES, NOTABLY "SOUTH PACIFIC" AND "HAWAII".



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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

58¢ MARGARET CHASE SMITH

1897 - 1995



3427

MARGARET CHASE SMITH, A NATIVE OF MAINE, IN 1940 WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IN 1949 SHE LEFT THE HOUSE TO RUN FOR THE SENATE, AND ONLY LEFT IN 1973. SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS. SENATOR SMITH WAS ALSO THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE PRESIDENCY, IN 1954.



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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

63¢ DR. JONAS SALK

1914 - 1995



3428

DR. JONAS SALK WAS A VIROLOGIST AND RESEARCHER WHO DEVELOPED THE FIRST EFFECTIVE VACCINE FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLIO, A DISEASE WHICH AT THE TIME WAS FEARED ALMOST AS MUCH AS A NUCLEAR ATTACK. WHILE PREVENTING THE ONSET OF THE DISEASE, IT DID NOT STOP THE VIRUS FROM ENTERING THE VICTIM'S BLOODSTREAM, AND WORK CONTINUED WITH THAT GOAL IN MIND.

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Protecting Children  
For 50 Years

**Dr. Jonas Salk**  
Creator of the First Polio Vaccine

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

HATTIE CARAWAY

1878 - 1950

*Perforated 11*



3431

*Perforated 11 1/2 x 11*



3432

HATTIE CARAWAY WAS A RESIDENT OF ARKANSAS, THE WIFE OF A U.S. SENATOR. HER HUSBAND DIED IN OFFICE, AND AS WAS COMMON AT THE TIME, SHE WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO FILL OUT HIS TERM. AT THE EXPIRATION OF THAT TERM, SHE RAN FOR THE SEAT AND WAS ELECTED, BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE ELECTED TO THE U.S. SENATE IN HER OWN RIGHT.

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U.S. Senator  
1931-1945

*Hattie W. Caraway*



First Woman to Preside  
Over the Senate



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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

75¢ HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

1811 - 1896



3430

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE WAS AN ABOLITIONIST AND THE AUTHOR OF THIRTY BOOKS WITH AN ANTI-SLAVERY THEME. THE BEST KNOWN OF THESE WORKS IS "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN", STILL A CLASSIC TODAY. SHE WAS ALSO VERY ACTIVE IN THE "UNDERGROUND RAILROAD", HELPING ESCAPED SLAVES TO REACH FREEDOM IN THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND CANADA.



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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

76¢ EDWARD TRUDEAU

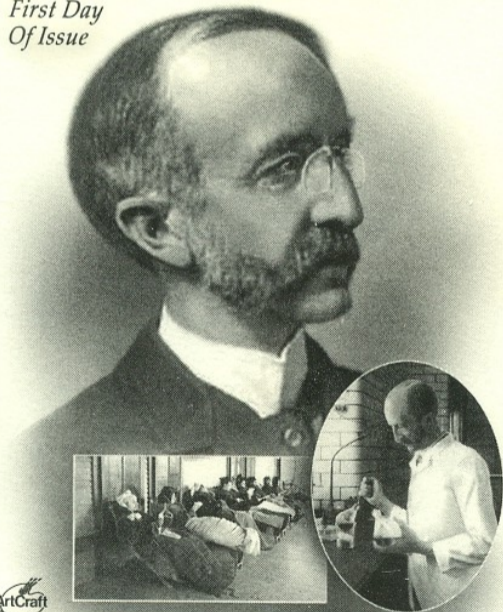
1848 - 1915



3432A

HENRY TRUDEAU BECAME A VICTIM OF TUBERCULOSIS AT AN EARLY AGE AND DEVOTED THE REST OF HIS LIFE TO RESEARCH ON TREATING THE DISEASE. HE READ OF TREATMENTS IN EUROPE IN WHICH HIGH ALTITUDES AND CLEAR AIR WERE HELPFUL. IN 1915 HE FOUNDED THE SARANAC LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF TUBERCULOSIS IN NEW YORK'S ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS.

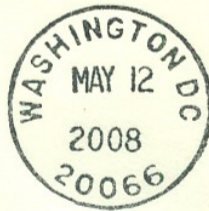
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**Edward Trudeau**

*Pioneer in the Study and Treatment of Tuberculosis*



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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

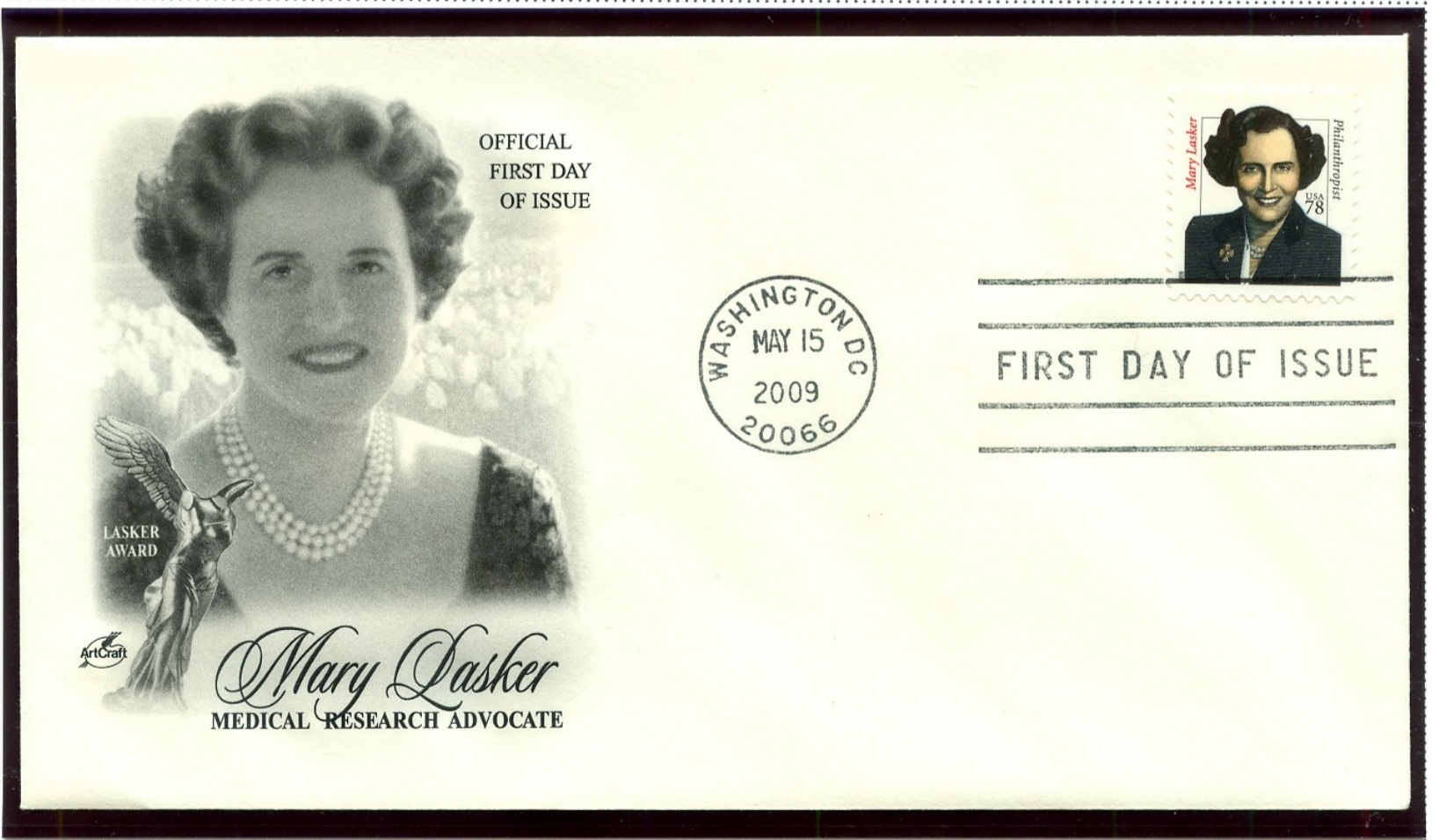
78¢ MARY LASKER

1900 - 1994



3432B

MARY LASKER WAS A LIFE-LONG HEALTH ACTIVIST. SHE SUPPORTED HEALTH INSURANCE DURING THE TRUMAN ADMINISTRATION, AND FOUNDED THE LASKER FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, WHICH ANNUALLY GIVES THE LASKER AWARD, CONSIDERED THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONOR IN U.S. MEDICINE. SHE ALSO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, WHICH EARLIER HAD LITTLE EFFECTIVENESS.



# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

83¢ EDNA FERBER

1887 - 1968

*Straight Shoulder*



3433

*Curving Shoulder*

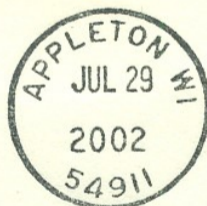


3434

EDNA FERBER WAS A NOVELIST AND PLAYWRIGHT. WHEN HER NOVEL "SHOWBOAT" WAS ABOUT TO BE MADE INTO A MUSICAL, SHE REFUSED PERMISSION UNTIL SHE WAS ASSURED IT WOULD BE TREATED AS A SERIOUS WORK, NOT THE USUAL MUSICAL COMEDY. HER OTHER MAJOR LITERARY WORKS INCLUDE "SO BIG" AND "GIANT", BOTH LONG-TIME BEST SELLERS.

THIS ISSUE HAS TWO VARIETIES IN THE VIGNETTE; WHERE THE SHOULDER TOUCHES THE LEFT MARGIN, ONE TOUCHES IT AT A SHARP ANGLE WHILE THE OTHER CURVES DOWNWARD.

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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

87¢ DR. ALBERT SABIN

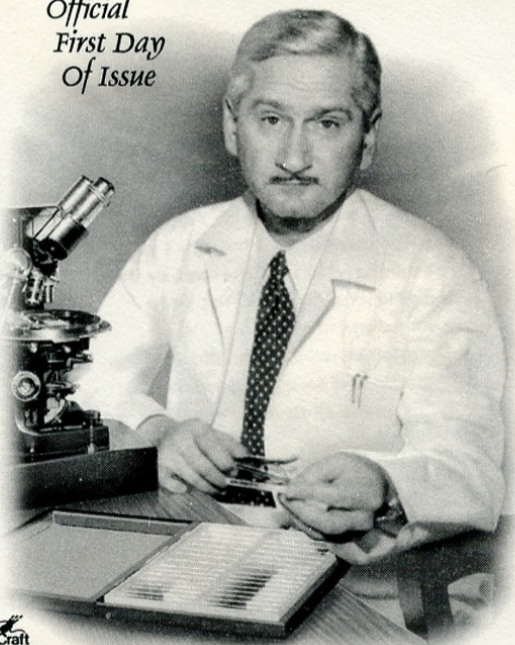
1906 - 1993



3435

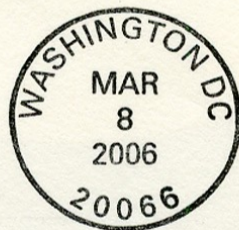
DR. ALBERT SABIN WAS A MEDICAL RESEARCHER INVOLVED WITH THE CONTINUING WORK ON IMPROVING THE POLIO VACCINE DEVELOPED BY DR. JONAS SALK. IN COOPERATION WITH RUSSIAN MEDICAL RESEARCHERS, AN ORALLY DELIVERED VACCINE WAS CREATED WHICH HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF WORKING IN THE INTESTINES TO BLOCK THE ENTRY OF THE POLIO VIRUS INTO THE BLOODSTREAM, A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT.

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First Day  
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**DR. ALBERT SABIN**

*Creator of the Oral Polio Vaccine*



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# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

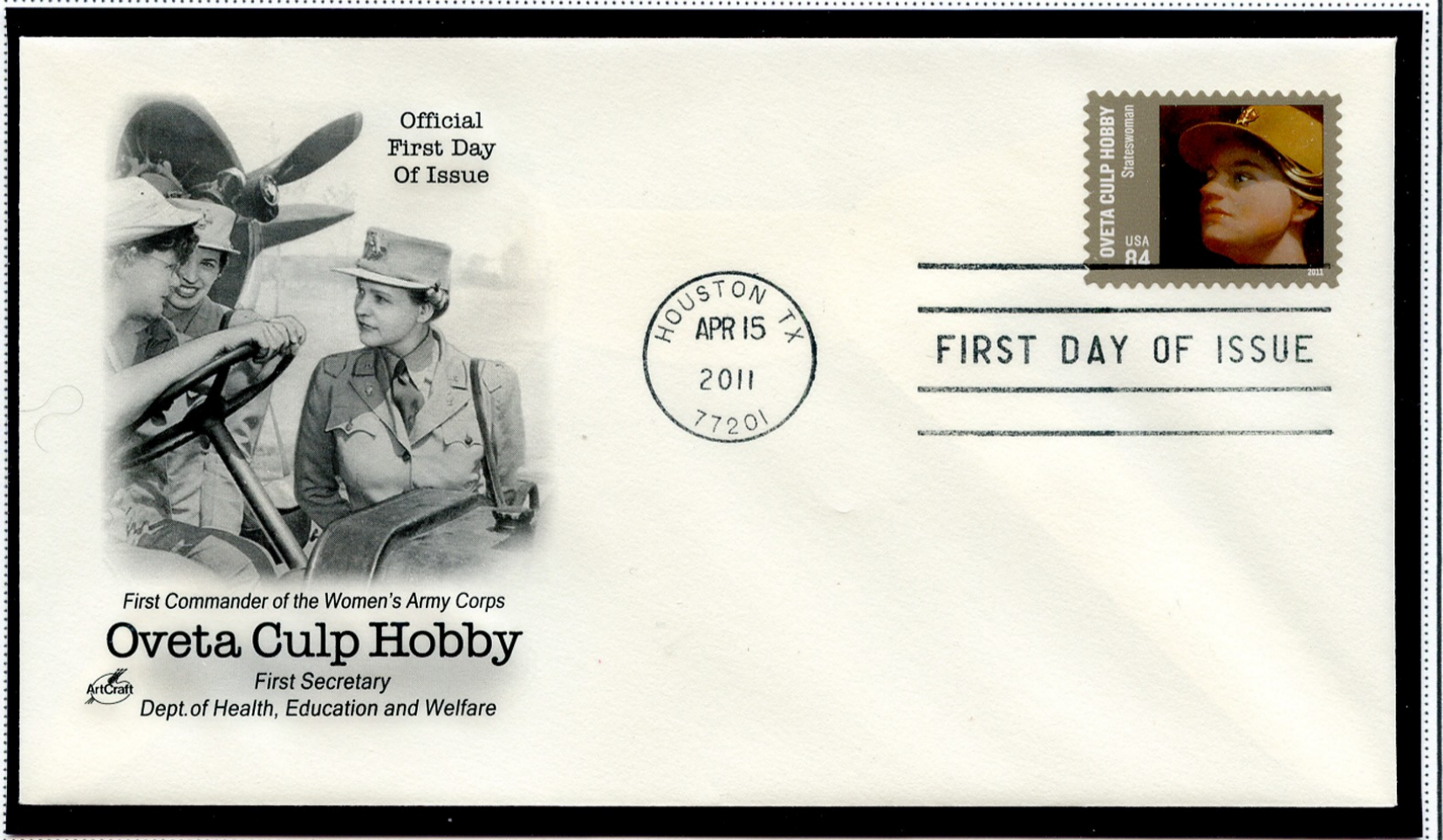
70¢ OVETA CULP HOBBY

1905 - 1995



4510

OVETA CULP HOBBY WAS THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS, SUCCESSOR TO THE WOMEN'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS OF WORLD WAR II. SHE ACHIEVED THE RANK OF COLONEL AND WAS THE FIRST WOMAN AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL FOR HER EFFORTS. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER NAMED HER HEAD OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY AND LATER THE FIRST FEMALE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE. THIS WAS LATER RENAMED THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, FROM WHICH SHE RESIGNED IN 1955. AFTER MARRYING THE PUBLISHER OF THE *Houston Post*, SHE JOINED THE PAPER'S EDITORIAL STAFF AND ULTIMATELY BECAME CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD AND THE *Post's* PUBLISHER.



# THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS SERIES

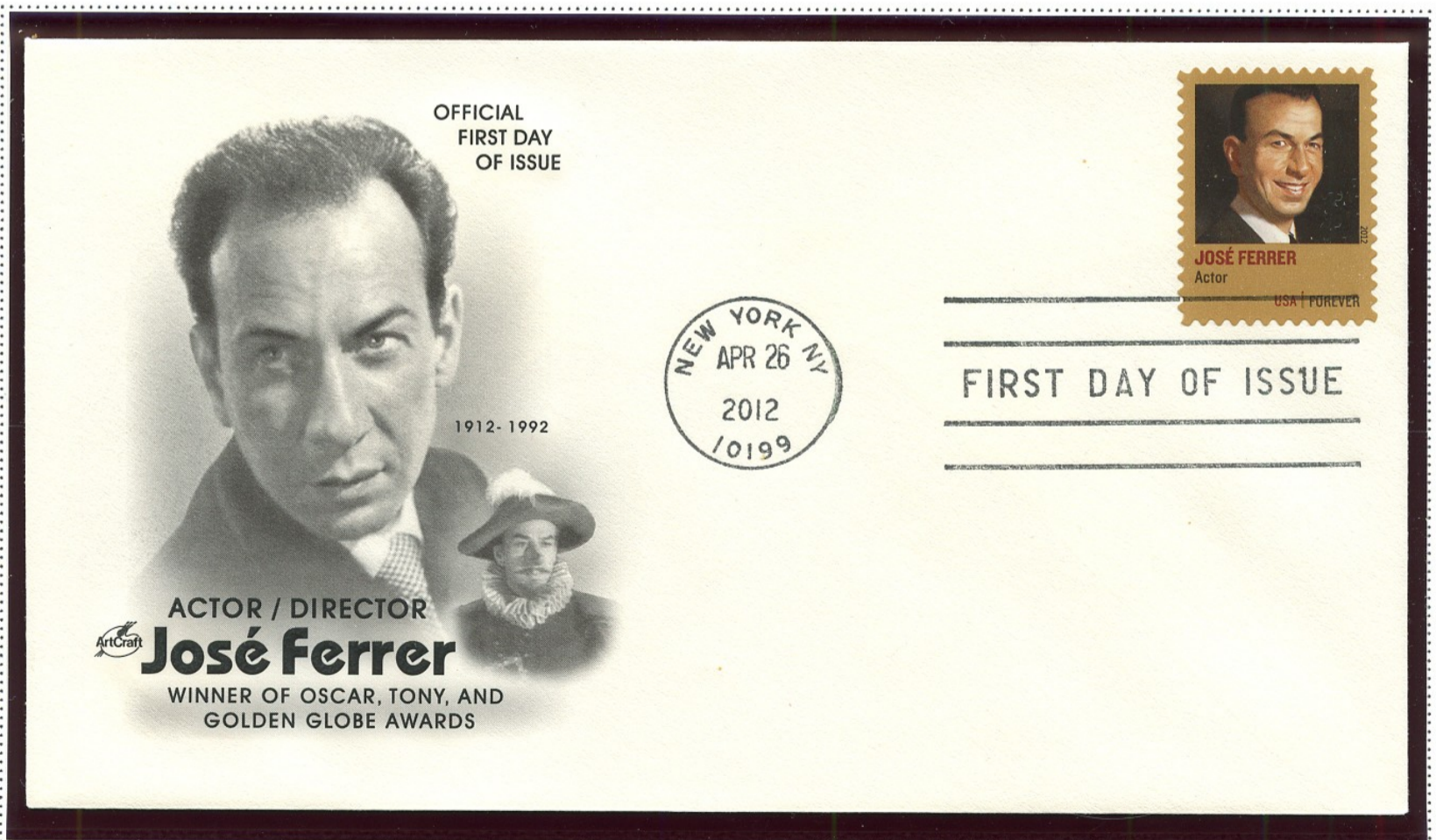
45¢ JOSÉ FERRER

1912 - 1992



4666

JOSÉ VICENTE FERRER DE OTERO Y CINTRÓN WAS A PUERTO RICAN ACTOR AND DIRECTOR OF FILMS AND THEATER. HE WAS THE FIRST PUERTO RICAN, AS WELL AS THE FIRST HISPANIC ACTOR TO WIN AN ACADEMY AWARD. HE WON A TONY AWARD FOR *Cyrano de Bergerac*, AND IN 1952 WON THE DISTINGUISHED DRAMATIC ACTOR AWARD AND OUTSTANDING DIRECTOR AWARD. FERRER WAS INDUCTED INTO THE AMERICAN THEATER HALL OF FAME IN 1981. PRESIDENT REAGAN PRESENTED HIM WITH THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS, BECOMING THE FIRST ACTOR TO RECEIVE THAT HONOR.

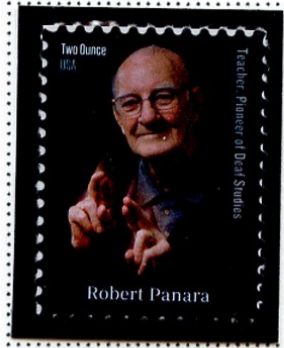




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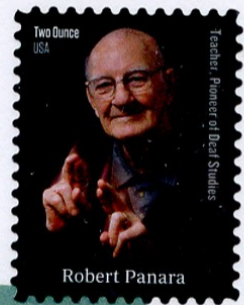
70¢ (2 OZ.) ROBERT PANARA

1920 - 2014



xxxx

ROBERT PANARA WAS A LEADING INNOVATOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS FOR TEACHING THE DEAF. BORN IN 1920, HE LOST HIS HEARING AT THE AGE OF TEN DUE TO A COMA INDUCED BY SPINAL MENINGITIS. HE LEARNED SIGN LANGUAGE AT THE AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, GRADUATED AND LATER TAUGHT AT GALLAUDET COLLEGE. HE WAS A SCHOLAR OF DEAF CULTURE, AN INTERPRETER OF THE ARTS AND A POET. HIS POEMS WERE PUBLISHED IN 1997 AS *On His Deafness and Other Melodies Unheard*.



*Robert Panara*

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
APRIL 11, 2017 | ROCHESTER, NY 14692



The End