



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

Postal Service, Ohio National Guard to Honor Bob Hope and U.S. Armed Forces

COLUMBUS, OHIO — Bob Hope's memory and dedication to the U.S. Armed Forces will be honored at a stamp unveiling ceremony held at the Ohio National Guard State Headquarters located at Beightler Armory, 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road on Friday, May 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony is part of the U.S. Postal Service's national Bob Hope Commemorative Stamp First-Day-Of-Sale events.

"The Postal Service is very pleased to issue this stamp to recognize such a renowned entertainer on the date which would have been his 106th birthday. We are honored to have Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and the Ohio National Guard, host this special ceremony," said Joshua Colin, District Manager for the Postal Service's, Columbus District.

Hope was born in England in 1903 but was raised in Northern Ohio. Although he never officially served in the U.S. Armed Forces, he dedicated a significant part of his life to entertaining America's men and women in uniform, starting in 1941 and continuing through the Persian Gulf War five decades later. After giving hundreds of performances overseas, he earned the nickname "G.I. Bob" and in 1997 became the first person recognized by the U.S. Congress as an "honorary veteran of the United States Armed Forces." Bob Hope died at his home in Toluca Lake, California, on July 27, 2003, two months after his 100th birthday.

Like Bob Hope, the Postal Service has long recognized the service and sacrifice of the nation's men and women serving in the Armed Forces. As such, the Postal Service in Columbus, will dedicate this stamp event to honor the U.S. Armed Forces: Active, Reserves and Veterans in all military branches. Following the event, a cake-cutting ceremony will be dedicated to the U.S. Armed Forces, the Ohio National Guard, all Veteran's and the USO.

The event is only open to the military and the media.

For more information about the Ohio National Guard visit <http://www.ong.ohio.gov> or call (614) 336-7001.

