

“Willie and Joe”...and Bill...Honored

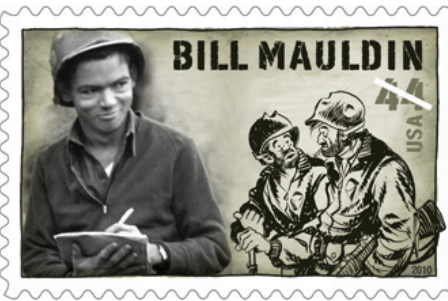
On March 31 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 44-cent, Bill Mauldin commemorative. Mauldin was born in Mountain Park, New Mexico, near Santa Fe, in 1921.

Bill Mauldin was one of America’s favorite cartoonists, becoming almost as famous as his characters, soldiers Willie and Joe, who gave their civilian audience an idea of what life was like for soldiers during World War II.

During the war, military readers got a knowing laugh from Mauldin’s cartoons; after the war, he became a popular and influential editorial cartoonist.

U.S. Postal Service Art Director Terrence W. McCaffrey chose to honor Mauldin through a combination of photography and an example of Mauldin’s art. The photograph of Bill Mauldin is by John Phillips, a photographer for *Life* magazine; it was taken in Italy on December 31, 1943. Mauldin’s cartoon, showing characters Willie and Joe, is used courtesy of the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Mauldin entered the U.S. Army in 1940 and served with the 45th Infantry Division, rising to the rank of Sergeant. During the landing at Anzio he was wounded and earned a Purple Heart. His grandfather had served as a civilian scout in the Apache Wars and his father was an artilleryman in World War I.



His cartoons in such publications as *Stars and Stripes* were such morale lifters that by 1944 he was given his own Jeep so he could move along the front lines finding ideas for his cartoons. Such was his impact that after being dressed down by General Patton, General Eisenhower came to Mauldin’s defense, feeling that he provided an outlet for soldiers’ frustrations.

First Day Cancellations

To obtain First Day Cancellations, the usual rules apply. Obtain the Bill Mauldin stamps from the post office or dealers, affix them to envelopes of choice addressed to yourself or others. You may also include a return-addressed outer envelope for return of your covers to protect them from damage or double-cancellation in the mail.

Send your covers in an outer envelope to Bill Mauldin Stamp, 120 South Federal Place, Santa Fe, NM 87501-9998. Requests must be postmarked by May 31, 2010.

The Bill Mauldin stamp was printed by Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd. using an offset process with “USPS” microprinting as added security against counterfeiting, which is easier with offset-printed than with gravure, engraved, printed stamps.

Plate Numbers consist of the letter “P” to identify Ashton Potter as the printer, followed by four single digits, one for each print color (black, cyan, magenta, yellow).