

THE MONTALBÁN FOUNDATION
1615 N VINE STREET - HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028

12-0002-362

August 17, 2012

Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Los Angeles City Council
2001 North Spring Street Room 340
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Committee Members:

I am appearing before you today on behalf of the Ricardo Montalbán Foundation. Mr. Montalbán passed away in 2009, and we believe it is now time to celebrate his extraordinary life and legendary career as an actor, humanitarian, and activist with a United States Postal Service "Forever" postage stamp.

Mr. Montalbán won attention for both leading and character roles that provoked national dialogues on diversity. His work helped us identify the challenges of modern cultural minorities. In the later stages of his legendary life, he established our foundation. We -- his family and his foundation's staff -- have the privilege of working to achieve his dreams while honoring his convictions, which are best expressed using HIS words:

"Mexico is my mother; the United States the best friend I will ever have. And so I dream of the day when my mother will say, 'Ricardo, you have chosen a wonderful friend.' And the day when the friend will say, 'Ricardo, you have a sensational mother.' That is why it is very important to bring us together. Brothers and sisters, love thy neighbor as thyself. And this theatre, I think, can be a little grain of sand towards that end. Here we have opened the doors not only for the opportunity of young talent to develop—writers, directors, actors—but also in coming together as a group in this society in which we live. Let's open a hand of friendship and love and brotherhood. That is my dream. I'll never see it complete while I'm still alive, but I think this is the beginning, and that is what makes me so happy to see this come to fruition."

Let me tell you just a few things that you might not know about Mr. Montalbán.

1949

He was the first Latin man to be featured on the cover of Life Magazine.

1949

In *The Border Incident*, he played an undercover investigator tasked with exposing the evil of the gangs exploiting migrant farm workers from Mexico.

1957

Mr. Montalbán starred on stage with Lena Horne in the Broadway musical *Jamaica*. His appearance caused great controversy with a romantic scene where he kissed Ms. Horne on stage. That led to a national conversation about eliminating racism and segregation in the United States. Then, despite advice to not take the part, he followed his instincts and accepted a role as a Kabuki in *Sayonara*. He spent many months in Japan, learning the language and the art of Kabuki, in order to faithfully portray Japanese culture. This film played a major role in helping Americans and Japanese heal from the wounds of World War II.

THE MONTALBÁN FOUNDATION
1615 N VINE STREET - HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028

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1970

Over and beyond his screen career, Mr. Montalbán was a visionary who was the first Hollywood personage to advocate for better opportunities for Latinos, both in front of and behind the camera. In 1970 he founded Nosotros, a non-profit which provides to young Latinos training in acting, writing, directing, and stagecraft, as well as opportunities to meet potential mentors and employers in the entertainment industry. He believed that working on the live stage was the best preparation for a career in the performing arts, and in 1999 his foundation acquired a prestigious legitimate stage theatre in Hollywood which now bears his name.

1985

Upon hearing about the devastating earthquake in Mexico City, he volunteered his time and talents to promote relief funds for medical attention for the many who were injured and for the restoration of the capital of his birthplace. His voice and image on the airwaves brought forward donations in the millions of dollars from American and Mexican citizens.

In accordance with the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee guidelines for the approval of a commemorative stamp, we submitted a formal application and asked a number of celebrities, political representatives, and prominent business icons to write letters of support. The resolution before you, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Eric Garcetti, and is an important step forward in achieving our goal of a Forever stamp honoring Mr. Montalbán.

We very much appreciate your continuing support of our foundation, our theatre, and this lovely stamp which commemorate Mr. Montalbán's life and service to Hollywood, to the United States, and to world.

Sincerely,



Gilbert Smith
Chair
Ricardo Montalbán Foundation

THE MONTALBÁN FOUNDATION
1615 N VINE STREET - HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028

May 20, 2012

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ricardo Montalbán Foundation. Mr. Montalbán passed away in 2009, and we believe it is time to celebrate his extraordinary life and legendary career as an actor and an activist with a USPS postage stamp.

Mr. Montalbán was America's first Latino movie star and was celebrated internationally for his iconic roles as "Khan" in "Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan" and "Mr. Roarke" in the television series "Fantasy Island." Those are just two of the hundreds of characters he played over his 70-year career. And of course his suave voice will forever be associated with the phrase "Corinthian Leather" from his commercials for the Chrysler Cordoba.

Over and beyond his screen career, Mr. Montalbán was a visionary who was the first Hollywood personage to advocate for better opportunities for Latinos, both in front of and behind the camera. In 1970 he founded Nosotros, a non-profit which provides to young Latinos training in acting, writing, directing, and stagecraft, as well as opportunities to meet potential mentors and employers in the entertainment industry. He believed that working on the live stage was the best preparation for a career in the performing arts, and in 1999 his foundation acquired a prestigious legitimate stage theatre in Hollywood which now bears his name.

Please consider this letter our formal request that Mr. Montalbán be honored with a commemorative stamp. We have included biographical and other materials for review by you and your staff. In addition, you will be receiving letters of support from a number of celebrities, political figures, artists, business leaders, and fans. Of course, if at any time you need additional information about Mr. Montalbán, please don't hesitate to contact us at the address shown above or at 323.871.2420.

Sincerely,



Gilbert Smith
Chair
Ricardo Montalbán Foundation

RICARDO MONTALBÁN – Biography

Ricardo Montalbán was America's first Latino movie star and has been celebrated by millions of fans worldwide for his accomplishments as a movie, television, and stage actor. Most often cited among his hundreds of credits are his performances as the arch-villain Khan Noonien Singh in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" and the elegant Mr. Roarke in the "Fantasy Island" television series. Those are just two of the memorable characters he portrayed over his 70-year career. And of course his suave voice will forever be associated with the phrase "soft Corinthian leather" from his Chrysler commercials.

But not everyone knows what a significant and inspirational leadership role he played throughout his life as a humanitarian and as a social activist. As a Spaniard by heritage and a Mexican by birth, he had observed and experienced the pernicious effects of prejudice and discrimination in Mexico and in the U.S. entertainment business throughout his career, and he made it his mission to disarm and eliminate it. He also suffered from a lifelong disability, which made walking difficult and required the use of a wheelchair in his later years. But, he had a profound compassion and caring for all people and purposefully used his celebrity to improve the lives of the disabled and the less fortunate throughout the world.

Mr. Montalbán passed away in 2009 at the age of 88, and we believe the time has come to commemorate all of his accomplishments with a USPS "Forever" stamp.

Born in Mexico in 1920 to Spanish parents who emigrated to Mexico with their three older children before he was born, Ricardo followed his older brother Carlos Montalbán to Los Angeles and attended Fairfax High School (one district over from the famed Hollywood High). He caught the acting bug after the drama teacher, who liked what she saw in his public speaking classes, cast him in several of the school's productions. MGM also liked what they saw and offered him a screen test in 1940. Carlos, who later became famous as the Juan Valdez of coffee commercials, talked him into instead going to New York, where Ricardo landed a bit part in a Broadway play starring Tallulah Bankhead. She was the first, but not the last, star with whom he would share a stage. He was also cast in many "soundies" (very short films played on jukeboxes). One of them was "The Latin from Staten Island," in which he played the eponymous guitar-strumming gigolo. And that was his first, but not his last, encounter with typecasting.

After a year, he had to cut short his stay in New York to return to Mexico to care for his ailing mother. His charm and charisma landed him a dozen roles in Spanish-language films, and he became a star throughout Central and South America. In 1948, MGM once again came calling, this time with a contract, and this time Ricardo signed, becoming the first Hispanic to receive a longterm studio deal.

To revive its fortunes in the post-World War II era, MGM launched an ambitious strategy emphasizing fresh new talent in musical comedies with sophisticated production values. The actors were for the most part "contract players" whose careers the studio controlled for as many as seven years. MGM's initiative proved to be a great success, and Ricardo was a versatile and valuable part of MGM's "studio system" team.

Within three years he had starred in ten movies, including "Fiesta" (playing a matador), "Border Incident," "Sombrero," and "Mystery Street." And, as it turned out, he wasn't just a talented actor but a delightful song-and-dance man, too. His pairing with Cyd Charisse in "Fiesta," which was a big hit for MGM, showcased his effortless dancing, and in "Neptune's Daughter," his duet with Esther Williams introduced to the world the Oscar-winning and Christmas-perennial song "Baby It's Cold Outside."

That said, he was so frequently cast as the "Latin Lover" and in ethnic roles (as a Japanese Kabuki dancer, several times as a Native American, and once as an ancient Babylonian) that the New York Times obituary noted: "...Mr. Montalbán, with his dark good looks and Spanish accent, seemed to be a kind of racial utility player." In a now-amusing example of Hollywood attitudes, he was asked, but of course declined, to change his name to Ricky Martin. All of these encounters with discrimination and stereotypes became part of the backdrop for his later off-screen work.

In November 1949, Life magazine published a profile dubbing Ricardo "Hollywood's New Romantic Star" and gave him the prestigious cover photo, making him the first Hispanic actor to be so honored. The article took a close look at Hollywood's portrayal of Hispanics and other minorities and at Ricardo's starring role in "Battleground," which was nominated for six Oscars, winning two, and which was MGM's highest-grossing movie in six years.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, he worked steadily in movies and was featured in such films as "Latin Lovers," "Sayonara," "The Singing Nun," "Cheyenne Autumn," and "Madame X," alongside such stars as Marlon Brando, Shelley Winters, Lee Marvin, Lana Turner, Vincent Price, and Shirley MacLaine. By the 1970s, he was becoming a familiar face to younger generations with his appearances in two of the "Planet of the Apes" movies, "The Mark of Zorro," "Naked Gun," two of the "Spy Kids" sequels, and of course "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan."

Along the way, he found time to return several times to the stage, in both Broadway and touring productions, starring in "Jamaica," a Broadway musical featuring Lena Horne, which earned him a Tony nomination, "Don Juan in Hell," "South Pacific," and "The King and I." In "Jamaica," he was the only non-African-American in the cast, and his interracial romance with Lena Horne's character generated controversy across the nation, some of which was muted when the cast publicly met and were photographed with civil rights leader Daisy Bates and the "Little Rock Nine" (the Arkansas students who had integrated their theretofore all-white public school in 1957).

During the two-year run of that show, Ricardo received hate mail and death threats, but he was undaunted. About this experience, he once wrote: "There is nothing you can do about such hate mail, nothing you can reply. I could only wish that the writer could get to know those people in 'Jamaica.' The hate would have disappeared. You can only love that which you know. If people of other backgrounds would *really* get to know those of other colors, religions, and national origin, then the word *prejudice* would not exist in our vocabularies." That philosophy and world view was the fundamental theme of his life's work.

He transitioned to television in the late 1950s, guest starring in many major series, including "Wagon Train," "Bonanza," "The Untouchables," "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.," "Wonder Woman," "I Love Lucy," "Laugh-In," and "Columbo," as well as the mini-series "How the West was Won," for which he received an Emmy. Ironically, his most famous movie role, that of the villain Khan, resulted from his portrayal of that character in a 1967 episode of "Star Trek." Fifteen years later he reprised that role in what many Trekkies consider the best movie in the "Star Trek" franchise thanks to his powerful portrayal of Capt. Kirk's revenge-seeking enemy. And of course his seven-year turn as Mr. Roarke is, to this day, an icon of pop culture. Even at the end of his career, he remained active in television, voicing animated characters in "Dora the Explorer," "Kim Possible," "Family Guy," and "Freakazoid."

For those achievements alone, a Ricardo Montalbán Forever stamp would be a much-deserved honor.

But, another role -- this one off-screen as a humanitarian and advocate for the disabled -- was written for him while on location in 1951 shooting the Western "Across the Wide Missouri" starring Clark Gable. In a horrible accident, Ricardo was thrown from his horse, knocked unconscious, and trampled by another horse. Already suffering from a vascular deficiency in his spine (an arteriovenous malformation, known as an AVM), the resulting back injury permanently aggravated the AVM. The pain increased as he aged, and in 1993, he underwent 9½ hours of spinal surgery which left him paralyzed below the waist and forced to use a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

He had already spent 40 years suffering the effects of a disabling condition almost invisibly -- many people were unaware of it -- but the wheelchair made it obvious that he was a member of the disabled community. The way Ricardo dealt with this part of his life illustrated that a disability need not be an end, and, in fact, could lead to wisdom. He often referred to his pain as being "like a good friend. And like a good friend, it has never left me." Imbued with a profound empathy for all people, his disability, even as it worsened over the years and made work and travel problematic, was the springboard for his tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate throughout the world.

He was recognized several times for this work. In 1985, an 8.1 earthquake nearly leveled Mexico City. He volunteered to help create a relief fund by using his worldwide celebrity and unique voice to urge people to send donations; the President of Mexico, Miguel de la Madrid, credited him as the key figure in the resurrection of the devastated city. In 1998, the Easter Seals organization gave him their first Easter Seals Achievement Award in recognition of "his fervent caring for his fellow actors, his desire to use his influence to improve the lives of people in need, and his lifetime commitment to helping people around the globe." Also in 1998, Pope John Paul II made him a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, the highest honor of the Catholic Church. And in 2000, he received the Media Access Harold Russell Award for his positive representation of disabled actors.

While he was grateful -- publicly and privately -- for his many successes in his adopted country, when he arrived at the midpoint of his career and surveyed the landscape of the business, he saw that he was a notable exception to the sad truth that Latinos had experienced decades of stereotyped portrayals and exclusion from the entertainment industry. In fact, he had been cast in many of those stereotyped roles, often competing with Fernando Lamas for the privilege. Aware that he had a unique ability to change that, he imagined a time when Latinos would take their rightful place beside him and then in turn educate and inspire younger generations dreaming of similar success.

In 1970, he became the first Hollywood personage to advocate for better opportunities for Latinos, both in front of and behind the camera, by founding Nosotros, a non-profit dedicated to creating training programs and job opportunities for young people seeking careers in the arts and entertainment and to eliminating the demeaning portrayals of Mexicans and other Hispanics. His standing in the community enabled him to galvanize the support of his colleagues in the entertainment business, Hispanics and non-Hispanics alike (among them Frank Sinatra, Vicki Carr, Desi Arnaz, Anthony Quinn), to work with him in creating lasting change. Over the course of the next 30 years Ricardo and Nosotros took their concerns directly to film and television executives, producers, directors, and writers, and together their efforts brought significant improvements in the education, employment, and

depiction of Latinos and other minorities. Loved and respected throughout the entertainment business for his talent, heart, and commitment to fairness and justice, he was presented with the Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award in 1993.

In 1999 he formed the Ricardo Montalbán Foundation to advance his vision by securing additional funding and a real-world location for the ongoing mentorship of that younger generation. Drawing on his own early experiences on Broadway, he believed that the live stage provided the best learning platform for aspiring artists, and by 2000 the foundation purchased a landmark theatre near the legendary corner of Sunset and Vine. In 2004 it was re-opened and renamed The Ricardo Montalbán Theatre, becoming the first theatre to carry the name of a Latino artist. The Montalbán has hosted many productions with Latino themes, actors, writers, and directors and has provided a performance venue for local non-profit arts groups such as Harmony Project, the Lula Washington Dance Company, and the UDLA. On a more commercial level, "Selena," Culture Clash's "Zorro in Hell," "The Who's Tommy," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "A Night Without Monty Python" (with Eric Idle and other stars), "An Evening with Comedian Billy Connolly," and most recently a two-week run of John Leguizamo's "Ghetto Klown" have been presented at The Montalbán. It is fitting that in 2009 Ricardo was honored posthumously with the Cesar E. Chavez Lifetime Achievement Award for "his tireless efforts in building Nosotros" and working to eliminate prejudice in the portrayal and employment of Hispanics and Latinos in Hollywood.

A short anecdote illustrates the humility, eloquence, and self-effacing humor of an extraordinary man who contributed so much to the people of the United States and the rest of the world.

At the grand opening of The Montalbán, Ricardo described for the audience "the five stages of the actor":

Who is Ricardo Montalbán?
Get me Ricardo Montalbán.
Get me a Ricardo Montalbán type.
Get me a young Ricardo Montalbán.
Who is Ricardo Montalbán?

And then, with a wry smile, he said he was adding two more -- the first inspired by his recent roles in family-oriented movies and television series, and the second by what he imagined a tourist would say upon seeing his name on the marquee of the theatre.

Wait a minute. Isn't that what's-his-name?

and

Who the hell is that?

Mr. Montalbán was a multidimensional entertainer and a passionate champion for civil and human rights, beloved by everyone who had the good fortune to know him, fans and co-workers alike. We believe it is fitting to commemorate all of his achievements with a "Forever" stamp. And perhaps a Forever stamp will help to permanently answer the question, "Who the hell is that?"

For more information please contact:

Gilbert Smith
Chair
Ricardo Montalbán Foundation
1615 Vine Street
Hollywood, CA 90028

T:323.871.2420



JOHN A. PÉREZ
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

May 29, 2012

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
United States Postal Service
1735 North Lynn Street Room 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Dear Members of the Advisory Committee:

I write in strong support of the proposal to honor legendary entertainer and advocate Ricardo Montalban with a United States postage stamp.

Throughout an amazing 70-year career, Ricardo Montalban touched millions. His talent and professionalism led to dozens of movie roles, hundreds of television appearances and lauded performances on Broadway. He was cast by such prominent directors as Bob Fosse, William Wellman and Mervyn LeRoy.

Americans who enjoyed Ricardo Montalban's performances in early roles in Spanish-language features and in MGM extravaganzas have grandchildren who remember him as Mr. Roarke from Fantasy Island and Khan from Star Trek II—a pair of roles that show his great versatility. Those fans have children of their own who have enjoyed Mr. Montalban's contributions to such recent fare as Kim Possible, Spy Kids and Dora the Explorer.

And some 37 years after Ricardo Montalban so suavely said the words, the phrase “soft Corinthian leather” is still regularly turning up in American popular culture.

Ricardo Montalban's contributions to the entertainment industry alone would be enough to qualify him for the honor of a postage stamp, but that's not the full story.

Through his advocacy group, Nostoros, and through the Montalban Foundation he created, Ricardo Montalban was committed to creating opportunities for Latino artists to make their own contributions and he served as an eager mentor, opening doors for performers of every background.

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

May 24, 2012

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Thanks to Ricardo Montalban's vision, the Montalban Theater in Los Angeles has become an innovative leader in opening up the world of theater to performers and audiences who had previously been marginalized.

When I was 14 years old I had the honor of meeting Ricardo Montalban. I am pleased to report that his intelligence, charm and humor were all exactly as advertised. He was the real deal.

As Speaker of the California Assembly, as someone who has seen the opportunities Ricardo Montalban created for Latino performers, and as an absolute fan, I respectfully urge your recommendation of a postage stamp for Ricardo Montalban.

Best Regards,



Speaker of the Assembly

JAP:ds

June 6, 2012

Dear US Postage Service Committee,

I will never forget when Ricardo Montalban arrived in Hollywood in the '40s. He became a movie star playing Latin Lovers with some of the top leading ladies of the time. I wanted to be in "On an Island with You," where Ricardo is engaged to Ester Williams and they have a lot swimming scenes.

Ricardo was to go on to Broadway, co-starring with Lena Horne, portray a Kabuki dancer in Sayanora with Marlon Brando, and star in film and television in a wide array of ethnic roles.

Ricardo as a corporate spokesman for Chrysler helped establish the Cordoba, with "Corinthean leather," as one of the most successful commercial campaigns in advertising history.

Ricardo starred in Fantasy Island as Mr. Roarke, a phenomenally successful series that ran on ABC for several years.

As a Mexican national, Ricardo had tremendous pride in his heritage and Latin ethnicity. Discrimination for Latins was far more severe during the second half of the 20th century than it is to do. He also became a US citizen in 2001.

Ricardo felt strongly that Hispanic roles needed to portray his people in a more accurate and thus respectful light. He was able to accomplish at great risk to his career and personal safety.

He also deserves a postage stamp because he loved animals and had two Lhasa Apsos, Sadie and Lulu.

As I say, DO I remember Ricardo from the very beginning of his career! But he was also two years older than me.

I hope with all my heart that Ricardo can be honored by the US Postal Service with his own stamp.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty White". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Betty White



June 14, 2012

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
C/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

RE: USPS Postage Stamp, Ricardo Montalbán

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

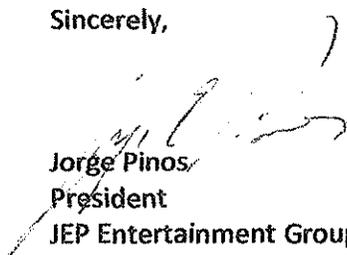
I am writing this letter in support of the effort to honor Ricardo Montalbán with a USPS Postage Stamp.

Mr. Montalbán had a long and distinguished career in the entertainment industry where he was well known for his elegance, charm, and strong work ethic. However, to me, his most notable achievement was his consistent work to improve the image of Latinos here in America. In a country comprised of so many cultures and so influenced by media it is of utmost importance that the positive and admirable qualities of each culture be portrayed. He worked hard to achieve this and inspired others to do the same.

During my employment with the William Morris Agency I had the honor of working with Mr. Montalbán and I witnessed, first hand, the respect given to him by my co-workers and others in the entertainment industry.

Please add my name to the many supporters for a stamp in his honor.

Sincerely,



Jorge Pinos
President
JEP Entertainment Group, Inc.



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of the Archbishop
Office: (213) 637-7534
Fax: (213) 637-6510

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

June 18, 2012

Mr. Gilbert Smith
Chair
Ricardo Montalbán Foundation
1615 N. Vine Street
Hollywood, CA 90028

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Ricardo Montalbán Foundation and for the information you sent along.

I was glad to hear about your intention to submit a presentation of Ricardo Montalbán's life and career to the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, and to request a USPS commemorative postage stamp of him.

I believe it is a very worthwhile initiative that would increase awareness of the many contributions of Latinos to our country, and I hope that the committee will respond positively to your request, and that we will be able to honor Mr. Montalbán's legacy.

Be assured of my prayers for you and all your endeavors.

May God grant you peace and joy,

+ José H. Gomez?

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles



Blumenthal Performing Arts

Blumenthal Performing Arts Center · Levine Center for the Arts · Spirit Square

June 4, 2012

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

I'm writing to endorse the proposal to recognize Ricardo Montalban with a commemorative USPS stamp. Ricardo Montalban is a true Hollywood Legend, whose life off-screen was equally remarkable.

He was one of the first Latino actors to become widely-known and admired by the public. His performances were consistently full of class and artistry.

Off-stage he was a positive voice for change during turbulent times. He advocated for justice and fairness, not only for Latinos, but other ethnic groups. Late in life he became an advocate for the disabled. Throughout his life his advocacy was one lived by positive example, not just by his words.

Ricardo Montalban was an exceptional artist who lived a remarkable life. I strongly support your consideration of honoring him with a USPS stamp.

Sincerely,

Tom Gabbard
President

Dressler & Associates, Inc.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

10390 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD, SUITE 360 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90025
TELEPHONE: (310) 551-1220 FACSIMILE: (310) 551-2711

June 1, 2012

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
C/O Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

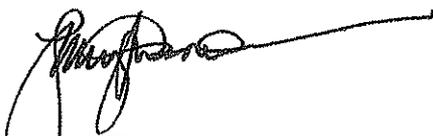
Ricardo Montalban was my client for many years. As his Business Manager, we developed a very close working relationship and I was privileged to know the man behind the celebrity.

Mr Montalban's acting career is memorialized on film going back to the time when he was known as the "Latin Lover" up until his characters became larger than life as his portrayal of Khan in the Star Trek television and movie series. The public knows his many characters of many nationalities; the same man who was a ruthless futuristic warrior also played the graceful Japanese kabuki dancer in the Sayonara film of the fifties.

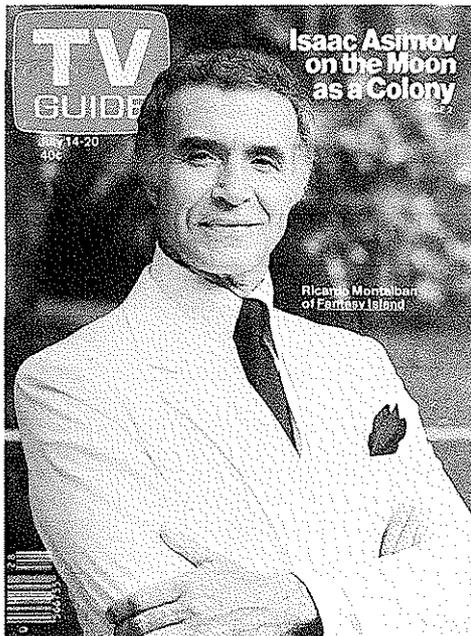
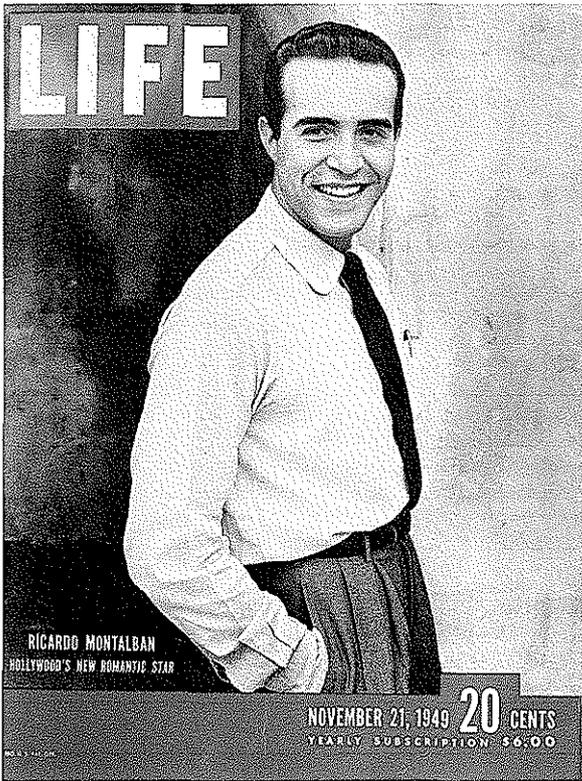
I believe that Mr Montalban's greatest gift to society was his work with the Latino community. He established Nosotros, a non-profit organization dedicated in promoting and elevating the Mexican and Hispanic images portrayed in the media as well as creating job opportunities and training programs for young people in the arts and entertainment industry.

Honored for his humanitarian efforts throughout his life, Mr Montalban is most deserving of recognition by our country. His face on a commemorative stamp would be a lasting reminder of the man who brought so much to so many throughout his lifetime.

Sincerely,



Larry J Dressler
CPA



RICARDO MONTALBÁN 1920 - 2009

