

(Note: Below is a word-for-word reprint of a letter I wrote to the editor of The Washington Post. It was published in the editorial page on December 9, 2011. What do you think?)

I strongly object to celebrities and professional athletes "Putting their stamp on America", literally or otherwise, (Fed Page, December 2, 2011) and I am appalled at the idea of the U.S. Postal System telling the world that the United States values entertainers more than other citizens.

What "enduring contributions" have excessively compensated and publicized people such as Oprah Winfrey and Cal Ripken made to the United States? Their contributions may be summarized in one word: entertainment. If there is anything that our society might have much too much of, it's entertainment.

And Bill Clinton? For sure, he was a two-term president, but how would our society benefit from honoring a man who lied about his marital infidelity?

We are a nation of more than 300 million people. Is the Postal Service telling us that we don't have enough people more worthy of national honor?