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Issue Date: January 24, 2001

First Day City: Minneapolis, Minnesota

Designer: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, Arizona

Typographer: Richard Sheaff

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Art Director: Richard Sheaff

Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.

Manufacturing Process: Offset/microprint (USPS)

Colors: Black, (match color) blue

Image Area: 0.84 x 1.40 inches or
21.336 x 35.56 millimeters

Format: Pane of 20 (1 design)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by two (2) single digits

Marginal Markings: © 2000 USPS, price, plate numbers,
plate position diagram, barcode

Roy Wilkins

This 24th stamp in the Black Heritage series honors Roy Wilkins, a civil rights leader and head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) during an important period in the civil rights movement. The series has already honored many notable African Americans who fought for freedom and equality, including Harriet Tubman, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wilkins was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1901. His mother died when he was a young child and an aunt and uncle in St. Paul, Minnesota, raised him. He went on to major in sociology and journalism at the University of Minnesota, earning his degree in 1923.

Wilkins devoted most of his career to the NAACP. In 1931, he joined the organization as assistant secretary, and served as the editor of the NAACP's official magazine, *The Crisis*, from 1934 to 1949. In 1950 he became the administrator of the NAACP and in 1955 he assumed the leadership, serving until 1977 as executive secretary and executive director.

Wilkins' belief in nonviolent means and the use of the legal system to advance the rights of African Americans won him many admirers both inside and outside the African American community.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



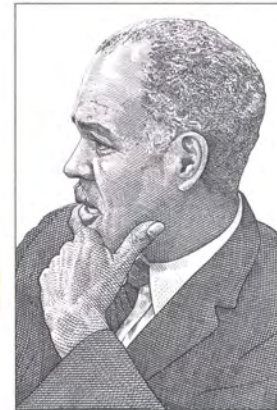
AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES

ROY WILKINS



A pragmatic and strategic leader, Roy Wilkins (1901–1981) worked within the legal system to advance the civil rights of African Americans. In a gentle but steadfast way, Wilkins pursued this work for most of his life.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Wilkins moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, to live with an aunt and uncle after his mother's death. In 1923, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, with a major in sociology and a minor in economics.



Wilkins joined the national staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as assistant secretary in 1931. A few years later, he succeeded W.E.B. DuBois as editor of *The Crisis*, the official magazine of the NAACP. Wilkins held this position until 1949, and in 1950 he became the administrator of the NAACP. From 1955 to 1977, he led the NAACP as executive secretary and executive director. Under his leadership the NAACP campaigned for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Wilkins retired in 1977.

Along with other civil rights leaders, Wilkins helped organize the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, during which he also delivered a speech. He received numerous awards honoring his work, including the NAACP's Spingarn Medal (1964) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1969).

This year, Wilkins joins many of his fellow civil rights advocates as the 24th honoree in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage series. A photograph taken by Morgan and Marvin Smith in the 1940s appears on the stamp, which was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Arizona, and issued on January 24, 2001, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.





450400

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.34
x20
\$6.80



009051



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

January 24, 2001
Minneapolis, MN



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



CEREMONY

First Day of Issue Ceremony ♦ University of Minnesota ♦ January 24, 2001

Host of Ceremony

Harris Faulkner
Anchor Channel 5/45 Eyewitness News

Color Guard

University of Minnesota ROTC

National Anthem

Kathleen Hardy
Thomas Bartsch – Accompanist

Opening Remarks

Harris Faulkner

Invocation

Rev. James Thomas

Introduction of Guests

Harris Faulkner

Welcome

Mark G. Yudof
President, University of Minnesota

Reading of Poem

Students of Afrocentric Educational Academy
Franklin Middle School – Minneapolis

Tributes to Roy Wilkins

Dr. Benjamin Hooks
*Former Executive Director, National Association
for the Advancement of Colored People*
Lloyd Jordan
*International President of the Omega Psi Phi
Fraternity*

Dr. Samuel Myers Jr.

*Director of Wilkins Center, University of
Minnesota*

Tom Mathews

*Co-author of The Autobiography of Roy
Wilkins, Standing Fast*

Interlude

Fred Steele

Introduction of Dedication Official

Wayne D. Rogers
Northland District Manager

Dedication of Stamp

John Sawyer, III
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

Benediction

Rev. James Thomas

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Kathleen Hardy and Fred Steele

Color Guard

University of Minnesota ROTC

HONORED GUESTS

The Family of Roy Wilkins

Amy Wilkins

United States Postal Service

Suzanne Medvidovich
Vice President of Midwest Area Operations

Rochelle Eastman

Postmaster of Minneapolis

Anthony C. Williams

Acting Postmaster of St. Paul

Richard J. Bowdren

Inspector in Charge, Midwest Division

Peter R. Hanson

Inspector in Charge, St. Paul Field Office

University of Minnesota

Board of Regents

Faculty and Administration

Dean and Faculty, HHH Institute of Public
Affairs

Wilkins Center on Human Relations and Social
Justice Fellows

Residents of Wilkins Hall

Africana Student Cultural Center

Office of the Associate Vice President for
Multicultural and Academic Affairs

Nancy "Rusty" Barcelo, Ph.D.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Claudie Washington

*President, Minnesota and Dakota State
Conference*

Nathaniel A. Khaliq

President, St. Paul Branch

Ventress Roberson

Executive Committee Member, St. Paul Branch

Arthur Sternberg

Executive Committee Member, St. Paul Branch

Ricky Campbell

President, Minneapolis Branch

Jackie Johnson

President, Rochester Branch

Matthew Little

Roy Wilkins Memorial Committee Co-Chair

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

SONG

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present day has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God,
where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our GOD,
True to our native land.

James Weldon Johnson

Radney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers
Thomas G Carpenter Library
Special Collections

BLACK
HERITAGE
SERIES

ROY WILKINS

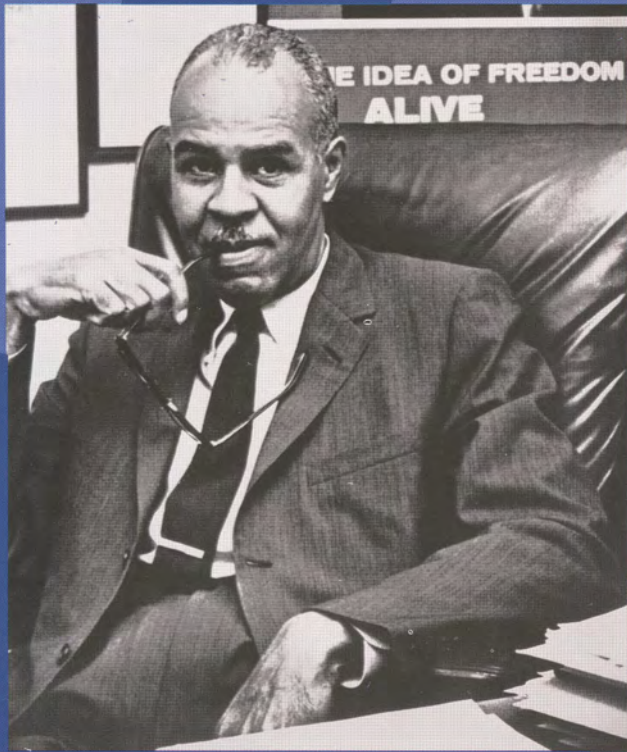
With the issuance of this stamp, the U.S. Postal Service proudly honors Roy Wilkins, whose leadership and principled determination made him a vital force in the civil rights movement.

Born August 30, 1901, in St. Louis, Missouri, Wilkins graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1923. He joined the staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as assistant secretary in 1931, also serving as the editor of the organization's official magazine, *The Crisis*, from 1934 to 1949. In 1950 he became the administrator of the NAACP and in 1955 he assumed the leadership, serving until 1977 as executive secretary and executive director.

Wilkins advocated nonviolent means and the use of the legal system to achieve racial equality and to advance the rights of African Americans. Under his leadership the NAACP campaigned for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. He also helped organize the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, a powerful and iconic moment in the history of the civil rights movement. In 1964 Wilkins received the NAACP's Spingarn Medal, an annual award honoring outstanding achievement by an African American.

This stamp, the 24th in the Black Heritage series, features a photograph of Wilkins taken in the 1940s by Morgan and Marvin Smith, twin brothers who worked in Harlem from the 1930s to the 1950s documenting the achievements of African Americans. The stamp was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Arizona.

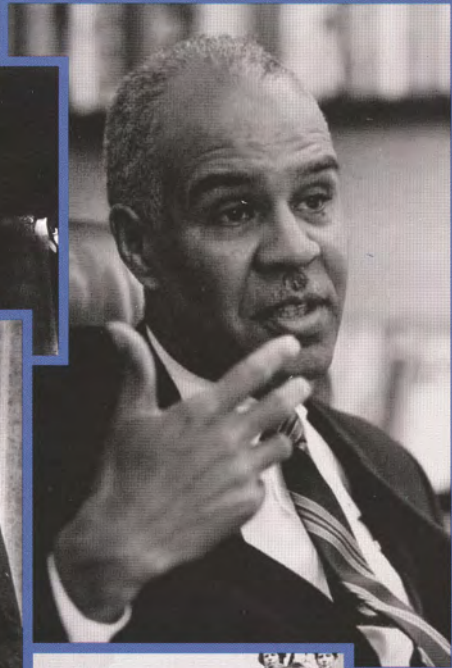
BLACK
HERITAGE
SERIES



**ROY
WILKINS**

Commemorative Stamp

FIRST
DAY
OF
ISSUE



Clockwise from upper left: speaking at a union convention on May 21, 1958; photograph of Wilkins taken in 1967; with U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy during a NAACP march in Washington, D.C., June 24, 1964; appearing alongside Thurgood Marshall, c.1961.



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*Roy Wilkins
Black Heritage Series*



ROY WILKINS



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Rodney Lawrence
Thomas G Carpenter
Special Collections

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Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers
Thomas G Carpenter Library
Special Collections

Roy Wilkins

Black Heritage Series

First Day of Issue: *January 24, 2001*

First Day City: *Minneapolis, Minnesota,*
home of Wilkins' alma mater,
the University of Minnesota

Stamp Designer: *Richard Sheaff*
Scottsdale, Arizona

Roy Wilkins spent much of his life in the pursuit of civil rights for black Americans.

Born on August 30, 1901, Wilkins grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1923. After working for a black newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri, he joined the NAACP in 1931. In 1934, he succeeded W.E.B. DuBois as editor of the organization's official publication, *The Crisis*.

Wilkins also directed the national program of anti-

discrimination and served as NAACP executive secretary and executive director from 1955 to 1977. He was active in the early stages of the civil rights movement, playing an important role in the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that ended segregation in public schools. In August 1963, he helped organize the historic March on Washington where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Wilkins was also a champion of important legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In recognition of his tireless devotion to civil rights, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969 — the highest civilian award. When Wilkins died on September 8, 1981, President Ronald Reagan ordered flags to be flown at half staff on all government buildings.