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American Commemorative Panels: Major League Baseball All-Stars

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Major League Baseball™ All-Stars

THE *Major League Baseball™* All-Stars stamps recognize the accomplishments of four baseball legends: Joe DiMaggio, Larry Doby, Willie Stargell, and Ted Williams.

Joe DiMaggio (1914–1999), nicknamed *The Yankee Clipper™*, is best known for his 56-game hitting streak in 1941, a feat unmatched to this day. With his batting prowess, as well as his exceptional skill and grace as a fielder and base runner, DiMaggio led the *Yankees™* to ten *American League™* pennants and nine *World Series™* titles. During professional baseball's centenary celebration in 1969, he was voted the sport's greatest living player.

Larry Doby (1923–2003), the first African American to play on an *American League* baseball club, joined the *Cleveland Indians™* on July 5, 1947, shortly after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in the *National League™*. In 1948, he became the first black player to hit a home run in a *World Series* championship. Doby was elected to the *American League* All-Star team each of the next seven years.

Willie Stargell (1940–2001) is perhaps best remembered for powering the 1979 *Pittsburgh Pirates™*, a multicultural team known as "The Family," to a *World Series* title. Nicknamed "Pops," he handed out "Stargell Stars" to teammates for outstanding play and showed a special talent for bridging gaps between white, black, and Latino players. The left-handed slugger twice led the *National League* in home runs and wound up his career with 475 home runs.



Ted Williams (1918–2002) of the *Boston Red Sox™* was the last *Major League™* player to bat over .400 for a single season, in 1941. Despite interrupting his career to serve in the military during World War II and the Korean War, Williams still won six *American League* batting titles. Over a 19-year career, he hit an amazing .344, including 521 home runs.

Artist Kadir Nelson designed the *Major League Baseball™* All-Stars stamps based on historic photographs of the players at bat. Phil Jordan served as art director.



Rodney Lawrence Hunt Sr. Papers
Thomas G. Harper
Special Collections

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