

John Wayne, American

1907 - 2007

In 1973, John Wayne released a wonderfully sentimental, patriotic album titled, "America Why I love Her." The album's title track would go on to be a classic moment in the legacy of John Wayne's life. The album was released during a period of great social unrest in the United States during the final years of the Vietnam War - as well as Watergate - both on the minds of Americans everywhere. Even with this turmoil, the album was Wayne's personal underscore of his love of country - a love that flows through every track on the album. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Wayne family re-released the album on CD. In this, the year of John Wayne's centennial we offer once again a reminder of his unabashed love of America. Below are the lyrics of his tribute, written by John Mitchum, an actor and songwriter; brother of Wayne's friend, actor Robert Mitchum. To celebrate the Duke's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, we offer two wonderful books to add to your collection, "John Wayne, A Western Celebration" - \$65.00 and "John Wayne, Stand Up and be Counted." Both are available through the Paragon office and make wonderful Holiday gifts. Calls us at 877-847-3443 to order your copies today.

America, Why I Love Her

You ask me why I love her?

Well, give me time, and I'll explain...

Have you seen a Kansas sunset or an Arizona rain?

Have you drifted on a bayou down Louisiana way?

Have you watched the cold fog drifting over San Francisco Bay?

Have you heard a Bobwhite calling in the Carolina pines?

Or heard the bellow of a diesel in the Appalachia mines?

Does the call of Niagara thrill you when you hear her waters roar?

Do you look with awe and wonder at a Massachusetts shore...

Where men who braved a hard new world, first stepped on

Plymouth Rock?

And do you think of them when you stroll along a New York City dock ?

Have you seen a snowflake drifting in the Rockies...way up high?

Have you seen the sun come blazing down from a bright Nevada sky?

Do you hail to the Columbia as she rushes to the sea...

Or bow your head at Gettysburg...in our struggle to be free?

Have you seen the mighty Tetons?

Have you watched an eagle soar?

Have you seen the Mississippi roll along Missouri's shore?

Have you felt a chill at Michigan, when on a winters day,

Her waters rage along the shore in a thunderous display?

Does the word "Aloha"... make you warm?

Do you stare in disbelief When you see the surf come roaring in at Waimea reef?

From Alaska's gold to the Everglades...

From the Rio Grande to Maine...

My heart cries out...

My pulse runs fast at the might of her domain.

You ask me why I love her?

I've a million reasons why.

My beautiful America... beneath Gods' wide, wide sky.



Photo: Publicity shot for one of John Wayne's most watched films, "Hondo."