

This Day in History... October 27, 1858

Happy Birthday Teddy Roosevelt



Issued on Roosevelt's 64th birthday, and perforated 11.



Stamp issued in December 1924 and perforated 10.



Rotary press coil stamp issued March 5, 1924, perforated 10 vertically.



1927 Roosevelt rotary press sheet stamp perforated 11 x 10.5.



Roosevelt stamp from the Liberty Series

Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was born October 27, 1858, in New York City, the second of four children. Roosevelt suffered from asthma and other sicknesses throughout his childhood. Despite this, he was often active and mischievous, taking great joy in activities outdoors. Roosevelt had a photographic memory and excelled in geography, history, biology, French, and German.

By the time Roosevelt was a student at Harvard, he was an accomplished naturalist, published ornithologist, and editor of *The Harvard Advocate*. While at Harvard and after graduation, Roosevelt wrote a book on the role of the US Navy in the War of 1812. The book was highly praised and established Roosevelt as a serious historian.

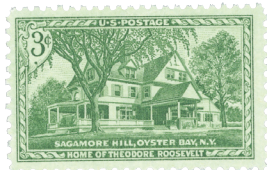
In 1881 Roosevelt was elected to the New York Assembly and quickly became a major figure in state politics and a "rising star" in the Republican Party. He served three terms, writing more bills than any other New York State legislator. A fallout during the 1884 Republican National Convention disillusioned him to party politics and he decided to retire to his ranch in the Badlands in the Dakota Territory.



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Roosevelt embraced the Western lifestyle – learning to ride a horse, rope, and hunt. He also wrote three books on life there and served as a deputy sheriff. When a particularly rough winter destroyed his \$80,000 investment and herd of cattle, Roosevelt moved back East to Sagamore Hill. In 1886, he unsuccessfully ran for mayor of New York, campaigning as "The Cowboy of the Dakotas."

During the 1888 Presidential election season, Roosevelt campaigned for Benjamin Harrison throughout the Midwest. Upon his election, Harrison appointed Roosevelt to the US Civil Service Commission. In that role, he fought tirelessly for the enforcement of civil service laws.



Stamp honors Roosevelt's home at Sagamore Hill.

After leaving his Civil Service post, Roosevelt became president of the board of New York City police commissioners in 1895. He established new disciplinary rules, a bicycle squad, and required the use of pistols by officers. He also called for regular inspections of guns, annual physical exams, service medals, installed telephones in station houses, appointed 1,600 recruits based on their physical and mental qualifications, and put an end to corrupt practices. He made a habit of walking officers' late night and early morning beats, to assure that they were on duty.

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With America's declaration of war the following year, Roosevelt resigned from his post to raise a group of volunteers to fight. He got cowboys from the West and Ivy League friends from New York, creating the First US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, nicknamed the "Rough Riders." Landing in Daiquiri, Cuba, the Rough Riders marched past the 1st Infantry Division and engaged with the Spanish forces at the Battle of Las Guasimas. They forced their way through the Spanish lines, causing the enemy to retreat earlier than planned.

After Roosevelt was promoted to colonel, he led the riders on their now-famous charges of Kettle and San Juan Hills on July 1, 1898. However, malaria and other diseases took a greater toll on his men than



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This Day in History... October 27, 1858 continued

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Returning to civilian life, Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1898. His sweeping attempts to rid the state of corruption and machine politics got him placed as William McKinley's running mate in the 1900 election. Roosevelt campaigned around the country, leading to a landslide victory for the Republicans.

Roosevelt's six months as vice president were relatively uneventful until September 6, 1901 when an assassin shot President McKinley. At first, the doctors believed he would make a full recovery, so Roosevelt resumed his vacation in the Adirondacks at the Tahawus Club near Newcomb, NY. McKinley's condition worsened however, and Roosevelt left around midnight for the train station in North Creek. It was a 35 mile journey by horse-drawn wagon that typically would take about seven hours in daylight, but was completed in less than six. It was at the train station, in the early hours of September 14, that Roosevelt learned that McKinley had not survived. Roosevelt was sworn-in as president later that day in Buffalo at 3:30 pm. A few weeks before his 43rd birthday, he became the youngest man to ever hold the nation's highest office.

Upon taking office, Roosevelt promised to uphold McKinley's policies and retain his cabinet. One of his first significant acts was delivering a 20,000-word address to Congress, urging them to limit the power of large corporations (also known as trusts). His firm stance on the issue earned him the nickname "trust-buster." Roosevelt also established the Department of Commerce and Labor, to make labor and management issues more widely known.

One of the first major obstacles Roosevelt faced came in 1902, when a coal strike nearly ended in a national emergency (as the coal was used to heat most homes). Roosevelt forced the strike to end by threatening to send in the US Army to mine the coal. He then oversaw negotiations, getting the miners and owners to agree to the findings of a commission.

President Roosevelt also took strides to improve the quality of food and medicine, by pushing Congress to pass the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act. These laws required foods and drugs to be properly labeled, for meat to be inspected, and for meatpacking plants to maintain sanitary conditions.

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In 1904, the president added the Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine. This addition promised that the US would help Caribbean and Central American countries if they could not pay their debts to European creditors. This move was particularly aimed at Germany, which was prepared to seize ports in Venezuela. As a result of the corollary, Germany took no action and peace remained in the region.

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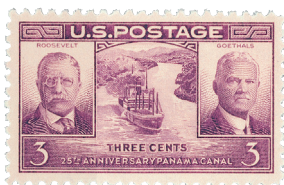
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Roosevelt stamp from the Celebrate the Century Series



Issued for the 50th anniversary of the Antiquities Act and the first National Monument – Devils Tower.



Canal Zone stamp honoring Roosevelt

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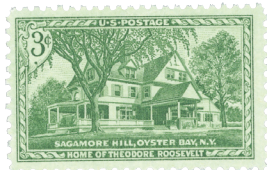
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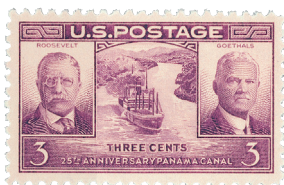
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