

THE MAGAZINE OF

SIGMA CHII

SUMMER 2009

JOHN WAYNE

The Legend

TRUE GRIT.
TRUE SIG.



30 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH



THE LEGEND

John Wayne

John Wayne, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929, smiles on May 8, 1969, after he accepts a derby hat in honor of Derby Days from Constantine Sig Dan Nelson; WYOMING 1969, then an undergraduate.

TRUE GRIT.

TRUE SIG.

Honesty. Courage. Trustworthiness. These words have become synonymous with the name John Wayne. The Duke is perhaps one of the Fraternity's most famous and most beloved alumni, not only because of those values that he portrayed onscreen and offscreen, but because he gave so much of himself to the Fraternity.

Even after his days as an undergraduate, when he had become a big movie star, he made time for Sigs and sweethearts. He invited brothers to his movie sets; he helped to select the inaugural International Sweetheart. He also encouraged brothers to donate funds to the Fraternity's former national philanthropy, the Wallace Village for Children, which treated youth with mild brain dysfunction.

Wayne served on "Brothers for Goldwater," a committee that worked to get Significant Sig Barry Goldwater, ARIZONA 1932, into the White House in 1964. Albeit an unsuccessful campaign, Wayne was steadfast in his commitment to help his close friend and brother.

Today, the legendary Wayne — who was known as Marion Morrison as an undergraduate — lives on as his likeness is emblazoned on chapter recruitment t-shirts, and as Sigs beam with pride in the fact that they can call the Duke a brother. Most importantly, John Wayne is remembered for the values that guided him throughout his life — values that seem to be synonymous with the Fraternity.

We dedicate this issue to the lasting impact of a man who was larger than life.

• 30 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH •



John Wayne

LARGER THAN LIFE

by Jamison Webb



On the 30th anniversary of his death, John Wayne, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929**, remains as legendary as ever. His movies continue to entertain people, and his values of honesty, compassion and courage continue to inspire. *The Magazine of Sigma Chi* explores why, after all of these years, the Duke remains a larger-than-life icon for the Fraternity, for the United States, and for cinema.

Thirty years after his June 11, 1979, death, the legend of John Wayne, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929**, lives on. More than a man and more than a movie star, he has become an American icon — the cinematic embodiment of the nation's ideals of courage and individuality, and the pop culture face of the United States' formative years in the Wild West. "He's one of those names that, in America, you just know," says Kirk Miles, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 2006**, current Consul of Wayne's undergraduate chapter.

But to credit Wayne's lasting appeal to just his importance in the United States is to undermine what has truly made him a hero to millions around the world: the code of ethics and the set of values he demonstrated onscreen and off.

"[...] The man's honesty came across [on] the screen and people identified with him because he had values, a sense of right and wrong, a sense of fairness, all of which are qualities that every human being hopes to achieve — male and female," says Gretchen Wayne, widow of the Duke's late son, Michael, and president of Batjac Productions, the Duke's production company.

The movie star

Any discussion of John Wayne's lasting impact on culture begins with his movies. The Duke appeared in more than 150 films throughout his career, debuting as a football player in 1926's *Brown of Harvard* and ending his career as a gunslinger in 1976's *The Shootist*. In between, each of the characters he played was a classic "man's man" — the cavalry officer in *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*, the boxer in *The Quiet Man*, Davy Crockett in *The Alamo*, the fireman in *Hellfighters*, and the cop in *McQ*.

And while all of these roles showcased the world-weary swagger and tough squint that would become Wayne trademarks, the John Wayne most moviegoers know best is the Duke as a cowboy. From the roles as the "Ringo Kid" in *Stagecoach* to "Ethan Edwards" in *The Searchers* to his Oscar-winning role as "Rooster Cogburn" in *True Grit*, John Wayne came to define the cinema's vision of the American cowboy.



ROLL 'EM: John Wayne spots the action in Warner Bros.-Seven Arts' "The Green Berets" from behind the Technicolor-Panavision camera. Besides starring with David Janssen and Jim Hutton in the drama, Wayne co-directed the Batjac film with Ray Kellogg.

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"In being in all of those Western films, he linked himself to the classic America," says Kirk Miles, adding that he believes the Duke remains relevant because we live in uncertain times, as did the Duke's characters in Westerns.

But much of the Duke's enduring silver screen popularity is also due to his onscreen portrayal of the World War II soldier. Over the course of more than a dozen World War II films — many of them released between 1942 and 1945 — Wayne landed on the beaches of Normandy in the D-day invasion, fought on the sands of Iwo Jima and served on a PT boat in the Pacific.



John Wayne, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* 1929, is seen in a publicity shot from the 1953 film, *Hondo*, which was originally released in 3-D. Wayne, who invited Sigs to his movie sets, remained a true Sigma Chi until his death. Even today, his influence is seen on undergraduate chapters, as recruitment t-shirts, fliers and posters are created to bear his likeness. While other fraternities at Wayne's alma mater also promote their own celebrity alumni during recruitment weeks, there's no beating the Duke. "You put [Delta Tau Delta member] Will Ferrell and John Wayne side by side," Southern California Consul Kirk Miles, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA* 1926, laughs and says, "and there's really no comparison."

University of Southern California film professor Rick Jewell says that Wayne's roles as Wild West cowboy and World War II soldier combined to create the all-American image of the Duke. In an article that appeared in the Autumn 2008 edition of USC's *Trojan Family Magazine*, Jewell writes, "In [John Wayne's] very being, he represented both the pathfinder who made the country safe for settlement and civilized values, and the modern defender of a benevolent philosophy of life molded by the hardy pioneers."

"Not a Hollywood invention"

Americans were not the only ones who associated the Duke with the red, white and blue. When Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev visited the United States in 1958, he had two requests—to go to Disneyland and to meet John Wayne. Citing security concerns, the U.S. government denied Khrushchev's wish to visit the "Happiest Place on Earth," Disneyland—but a meeting between Khrushchev and the Duke was arranged. In 1975, Emperor Hirohito of Japan, an enemy of the United States during World War II, toured the States and he also requested to visit Wayne.

Even today, the Duke's star has lost none of its shine, both abroad and at home. In 2007, Gretchen Wayne was invited to attend the prestigious Cannes Film Festival in France, where the festival screened the 1953 John Wayne film *Hondo*. "It was met with tremendous acclaim and a standing ovation," she recalls.

And in January 2009, a Harris Poll survey revealed that Wayne was America's third favorite movie star; he is the only deceased actor on the list, and the only star to have appeared on every year's list since Harris began conducting the poll in 1994. Wayne topped the Harris list in 1995.

Some critics attribute the Duke's long-lasting popularity to not only the roles he chose, but also how he played them. Wayne was fond of telling interviewers that, in his films, he was essentially playing a version of himself—not "acting," but rather, "reacting" to the scene and his fellow actors just as he would do in real life. This "reacting" lent to his films an authenticity to his performances that endeared him to audiences around the world.

Of course, the character found within the persona that a movie star brings to life onscreen is often different from the character seen in the star's off-screen behavior. But that often was not so in the case of the Duke, says Gretchen Wayne.

She adds that that he often played men who were leaders.

Others who knew the Duke agree that there was no separation of the man from the movies. "He was not a Hollywood invention," says Brian Downes, executive director of the John Wayne Birthplace Society in Winterset, Iowa, who met Wayne in the 1970s. He cites the Duke's honesty, selflessness and tenderness in his film roles as traits that reflected the real-life man. "I don't think you can fake something like that," Downes says of Wayne's "good guy" persona throughout his films.

Downes' own John Wayne Birthplace Society seems to promote the Duke as a champion of those values. Downes says that more than 35,000 visitors are annually drawn to the birthplace home of Wayne, and fund-raising is underway for the John Wayne Birthplace Museum and Learning Center. The 8,500-square-foot building, estimated to cost \$5 million, will place special emphasis on the Duke's character quality, based in what Downes cites as Wayne's "Midwestern values" and "common touch."

JOHN WAYNE

Staunch supporter

The Duke stuck to his guns, even when it wasn't popular. He was outspoken about his political views, namely in his support of the Vietnam War during a time when public opinion was to the contrary. He even co-directed and starred in the pro-Vietnam War film *The Green Berets*, which was released in July 1968 — just weeks before a Gallup poll showed that 53 percent of Americans said it had been a mistake to send troops to Vietnam.

Yet the Duke was also willing to break with his conservative political ties in favor of what he believed to be right. His support of the 1977 decision by Democrat President Jimmy Carter to return the Panama Canal to Panama drew ire from the Duke's fellow conservatives, but the Duke didn't care. In an Oct. 12, 1977, letter to President Carter in which the Duke voiced his support for "the Panama Canal situation," he signed the letter as a member of the "Loyal Opposition."

Beyond any political ideology, however, the Duke sought to instill within others the values he treasured. Gretchen Wayne says her father-in-law believed in education, tolerance and giving of one's self to others. He always made time for his fans, and was generous of himself when it came to philanthropies and charities. "You would just ask him [to come to the charity event] and he would be there," Gretchen says.

She adds that as he was a patient at the UCLA Medical Center in 1979, dying of stomach cancer, he went out of his way for others. "He'd go and visit the other patients and stick his head [into their room]. He'd be pushing this tree with all of his drip bags," Gretchen says, reiterating that though sick and dying, her father-in-law just wanted to visit others. "He did it because he cared about people."



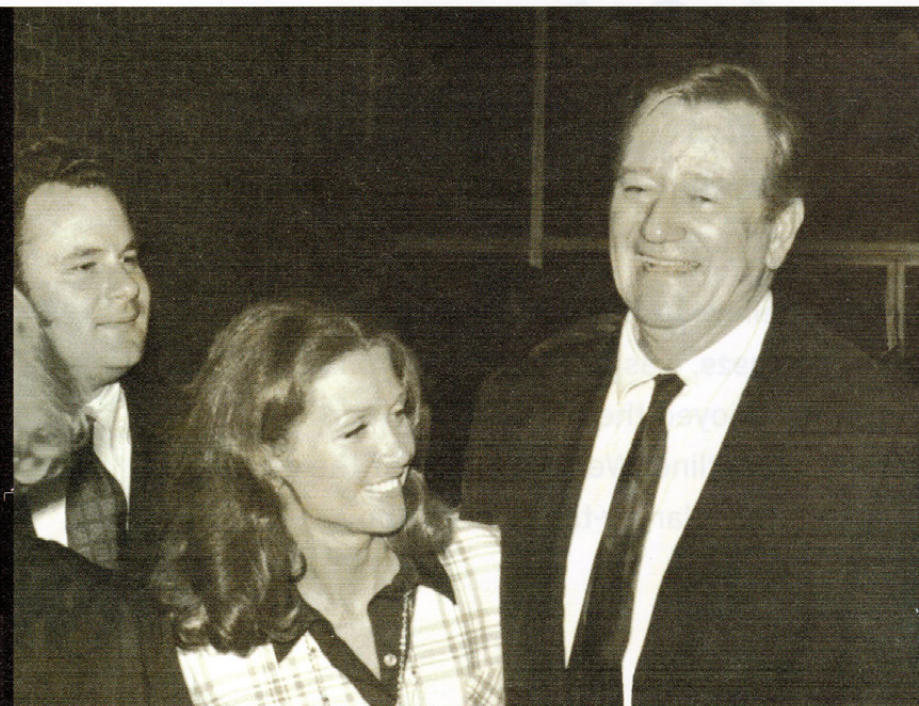
In May 1979, following a presentation by the Duke's close friend, Significant Sig Sen. Barry Goldwater, ARIZONA 1932, Congress voted to award John Wayne, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929, with the Congressional Gold Medal. The award is the highest civilian honor in the United States.

Lasting impact

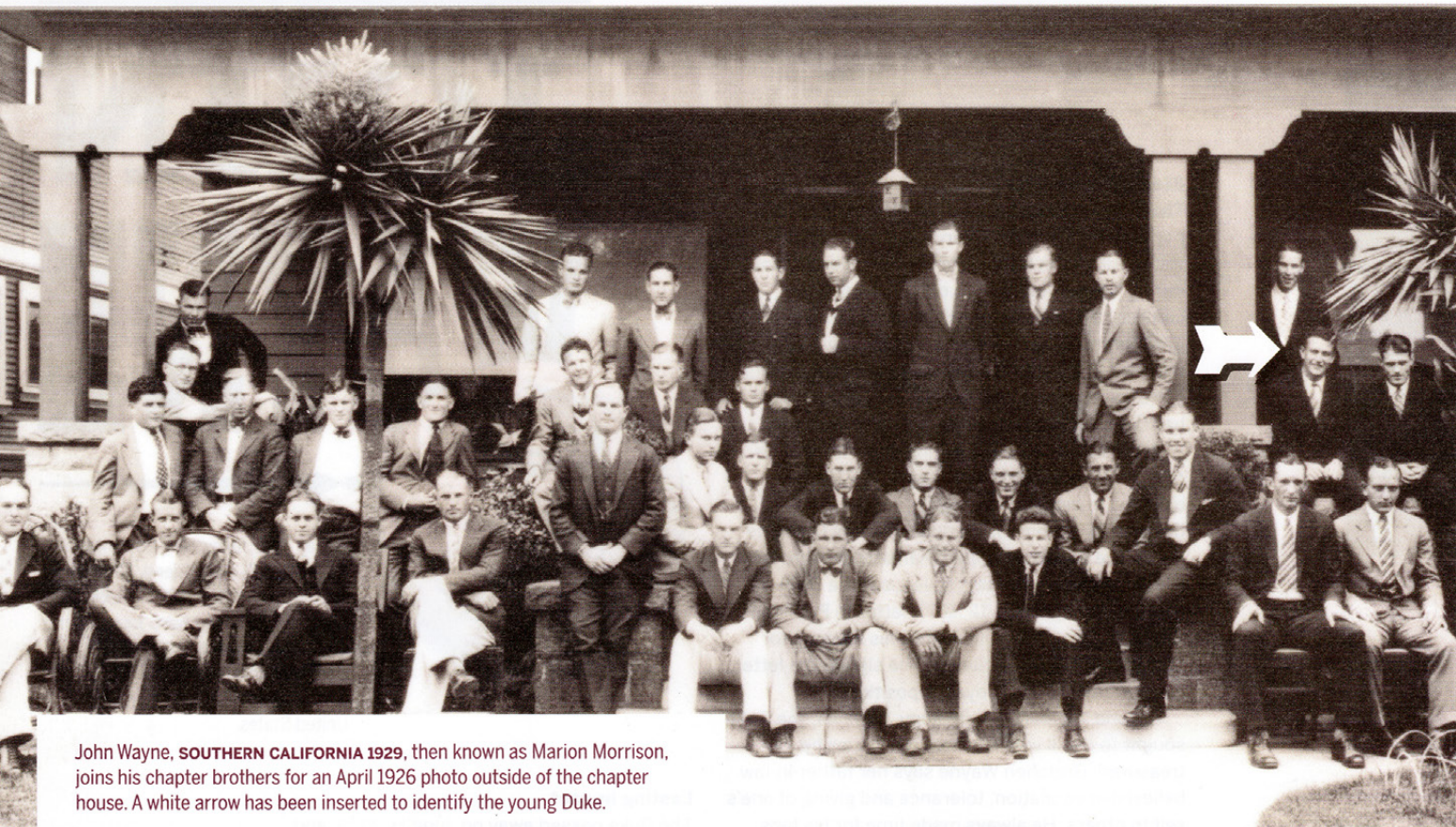
The Duke passed away on June 11, 1979, and due to his iconic film career and his values-based legacy, he remains one of the Fraternity's best-known and best-loved alums. He still stirs up feelings of awe among his brothers.

Miles says that one of the first things he did after he was initiated into the Fraternity in November 2006 was to watch a John Wayne movie.

"To watch him [in his movies] and say to yourself, 'Wow, I went through the same [Ritual] he went through — I share something with this guy' — it's amazing to think about," he says.



Gretchen Wayne and her father-in-law in 1963, at the premiere of the film *McLintock!* Gretchen's late husband, Michael, is at left. Gretchen, president of the Duke's production company, Batjac, manages the restoration of John Wayne classics such as *The High and the Mighty*, *Island in the Sky*, *Hondo* and *McLintock!*, which have been released by Paramount Home Entertainment. Gretchen took over as president of Batjac when Michael passed away, and in her role, she completed her husband's dream of bringing back to the public *The High and the Mighty*. "The film negative had severe water damage and several of the reels of film were missing, but Michael knew that someday the technology would be here to restore the film to all its glory," Gretchen says.



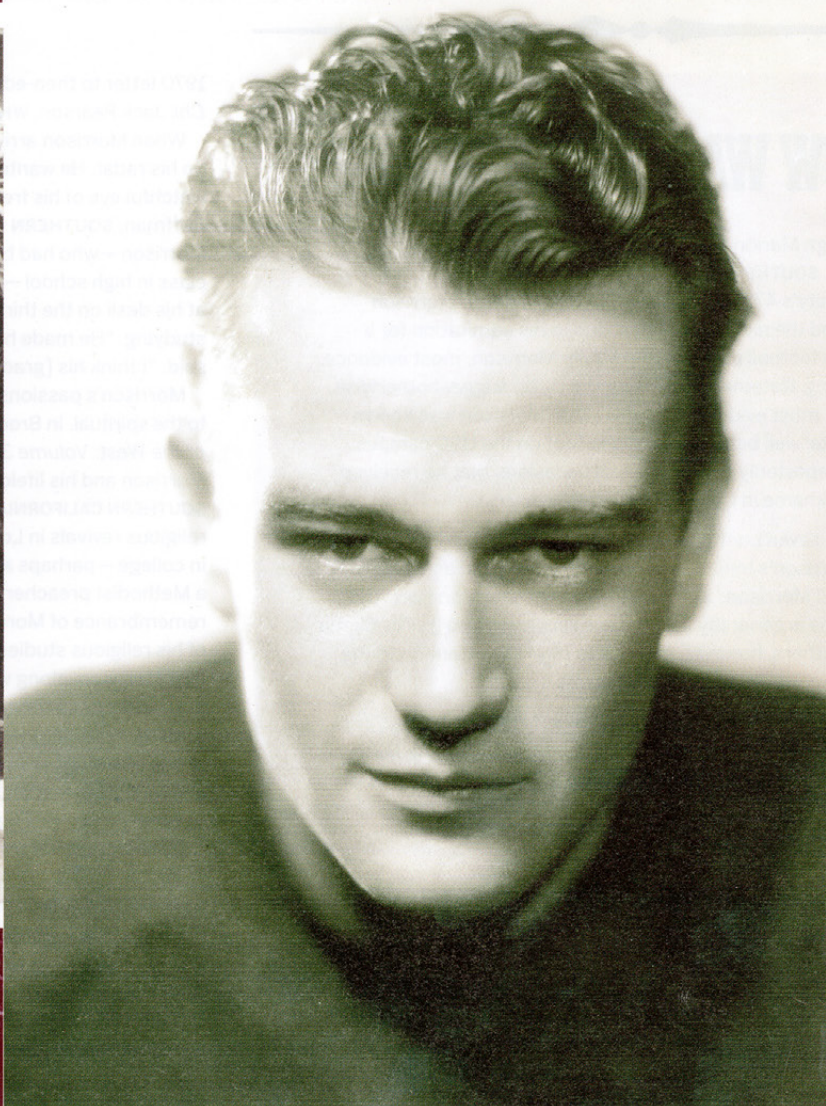
John Wayne, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929**, then known as Marion Morrison, joins his chapter brothers for an April 1926 photo outside of the chapter house. A white arrow has been inserted to identify the young Duke.

MARION MORRISON,

THE UNDERGRADUATE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929

There was a time, believe it or not, when John Wayne, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929**, was just another Sigma Chi undergraduate who enjoyed the bonds of brotherhood along the California coastline. We take a look at the man who later became a larger-than-life cowboy.



The Duke in a portrait from the set of his 1931 film, *Maker of Men*. At the time, he had been out of school for nearly four years.

by Jamison Webb

Before there was John Wayne, there was Marion Morrison, the Iowa-born son of a pharmacist who came to college a football player and left a Fraternity man destined for Hollywood immortality. But while the ending of Morrison's story is well-known, the years that led to his silver screen success are less well-documented, begging the question, "What was John Wayne like as an undergraduate?"

With the help of a 1979 remembrance of John Wayne written by 47th Grand Consul M. Craig Nason, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1926*, for *The Magazine of Sigma Chi*, as well as with information from brothers and biographers, we take a look at Morrison, the Sigma Chi undergraduate.

Joining the Fraternity

Morrison found college, and subsequently Sigma Chi, through football. He had been a star guard on the football team at Glendale High School in

Glendale, Calif. Along with several of his high school teammates, Morrison secured a football scholarship to the University of Southern California in nearby Los Angeles.

He and his teammates entered school in the fall of 1925 and soon after, they were approached by several USC football players who encouraged them to join the Fraternity. Those 'recruiters' included Howard Elliott, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1928*, the biological brother of Darrel Elliott, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929*, Morrison's friend and teammate from Glendale High School.

"[...] I didn't know what to expect [when I accepted Sigma Chi's bid]," Morrison said in a 1978 letter sent by the Fraternity to promote the Life Loyal program. "But I joined, and I can tell you that it was one of the most personally rewarding decisions I've ever made. A young man in college, even a football player, can get lost in the crowd."

How was 'DUKE' NAMED?

Although Marion Morrison's chapter brother M. Craig Nason, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1926* — who later became the Fraternity's 47th Grand Consul — claimed that Morrison received the nickname 'Duke' due to his admiration for a college football player named Duke Morrison, most evidence, including statements made by the Duke, suggest otherwise. In fact, most evidence indicates that Morrison was known as 'Duke' well before he stepped foot on the USC campus. Duke reportedly said on several occasions that he received the nickname in honor of his family's dog.

There is even controversy about what his real name was. On Morrison's Initiation certificate, he is listed as 'Marion Mitchell Morrison,' and not 'Marion Michael Morrison,' the name he is generally said to have received at birth. His Sigma Chi brothers, however, seemed to pay little attention to the middle name on the Initiation forms.

"We used to call him Michael or Mike," Eugene Clarke, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1931*, told a biographer of the Duke. "I supposed because we thought the name 'Marion' was a girl's name."

And so Morrison pledged Sigma Chi, where, after what has been reported to have been a difficult childhood, he seemed to find a home. He worked in the kitchen at the USC chapter house as a dishwasher and a bus boy alongside the chapter's cooks, Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle. The compensation was room and board, but according to Morrison's chapter brothers, he garnered much more than that from his time in the kitchen.

"'Duke' told me on many occasions that he considered [the Tuttles] his mother and father away from home, and the Tuttles treated him like a son," said Nason, the Duke's Consul during his undergraduate days.

Around the chapter house

Those who knew John Wayne in his undergraduate days recall him favorably, but say there was nothing to suggest he'd reach the heights of fame that he later achieved. "I was at the Initiation of 'Duke' Morrison and while he was a big likable kid, no one thought of him as becoming a star," recalled Order of Constantine Sig Irwin Cary, *STANFORD 1915*, in a

1970 letter to then-editor of *The Magazine of Sigma Chi*, Jack Pearson, *WHITMAN 1952*.

When Morrison arrived at USC, acting wasn't even on his radar. He wanted to be a lawyer. Under the watchful eye of his freshman year roommate Ted Coffman, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1927*, Morrison — who had been president of his senior class in high school — spent two hours every night at his desk on the third floor of the chapter house, studying. "He made his grades with ease," Nason said. "I think his [grade point] average was a B+."

Morrison's passions ranged from the scholastic to the spiritual. In Brock and Bodie Thoene's *Legends of the West: Volume 3*, the authors recall how Morrison and his lifelong friend Lowry McCaslin, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929*, attended several religious revivals in Los Angeles during their time in college — perhaps at the behest of McCaslin, a Methodist preacher's son. In Nason's 1979 remembrance of Morrison, he made mention of his religious studies at Sigma Chi, noting that Morrison, along with Charles S. Boren, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929*, and Don Williams, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929*, "would hibernate in one of the upper rooms" of the chapter house and hold Bible readings and discussions, in addition to occasionally writing poetry.

Of course, there was a side to Morrison that wasn't all Bible passages and poetry. He is said to have enjoyed a good night on the town and he loved playing cards with his Fraternity brothers. "I can still see him sitting with Charlie Boren, Jess Hibbs [*SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929*], Gene Dorsey [*SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1926*] and so many of the others in the card room," said Nason.

On the football field

Morrison's days as a football player soon came to an end on a visit to the beach along the California coast in 1926.

"We jumped in[to] the water — it was Duke's idea — and started to do what the kids nowadays call 'body surfing,'" recounted Eugene Clarke, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1931*, in a 1979 interview with the USC *Trojan Family* magazine. "The waves were pretty high, real rough and one of them caught the Duke and tossed him ashore with a badly wretched right shoulder."

For a member of the football team who registered little playing time as it was, the injury was devastating. It put an end to his football career, and his scholarship to USC. He tried to stay afloat at USC without the scholarship money, working odds-and-ends jobs around town. Education was important to him, says Gretchen Wayne, the Duke's

John Wayne, *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929*, is seen during his gridiron glory days on the University of Southern California Trojan football team.

daughter-in-law. "He really was an over-achiever. He thought that it was the greatest thing [in this country] that you could get an education."

But unfortunately, the cost to attend USC without a scholarship grew to be too much for the Duke. In August 1927, Morrison left college. His Sigma Chi undergraduate days were done.

Fraternity and film

Throughout his days in college, Morrison had worked on the backlots of several Hollywood studios—some USC football players of the period, many of whom were also Sigma Chis, worked as extras and laborers on movie sets to make money during the summer. Now, with college out of the picture for the Duke, he turned full-time to Tinseltown to help pay his bills.

Morrison still enjoyed the brotherhood with Sigma Chi at Southern California. He used his connections from the studio backlots to secure four horses to pull the chapter's float in USC's 1928 Homecoming parade. Nason told *The Magazine of Sigma Chi* in 1979. And when one-off jobs as extras or laborers opened around the studio, Morrison tried to ensure

they went to his Fraternity brothers. On one occasion, his mentor and director John Ford asked Morrison to recruit footballers to serve as extras in the movie, *Salute*, which was to be filmed in Annapolis, Md. Morrison enlisted the help of 25 football players, most of them Sigma Chis. When Ford wanted to take Ward Bond, a USC football player but not a Sigma Chi, on the shoot in place of one of the Sigs, Morrison fought for the Sig to get the job. Ford wouldn't budge on his decision; Bond got the part.

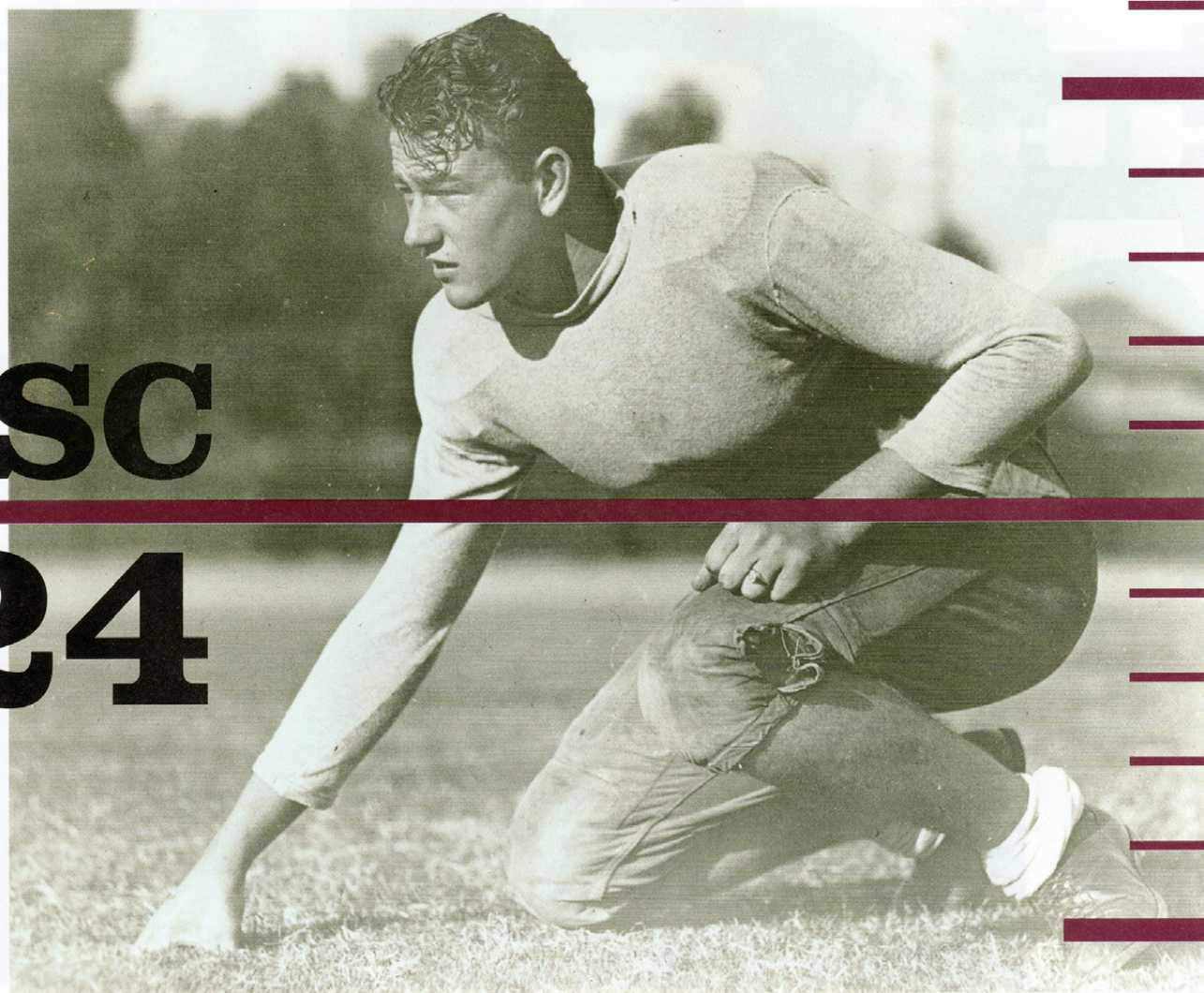
Morrison's loyalty is an indication of his devotion to his brothers.

"Long after his college days, John Wayne told me on numerous occasions that he owed everything to the Fraternity and the men of [Southern California] for his [...] development [as a young man]," Nason recounted. "[He said he] gained much more knowledge and advancement from Sigma Chi and his classmates than he did from attending classes on campus."

Nason added, "The Duke was an excellent chapter man [and] just a darn good Sigma Chi."

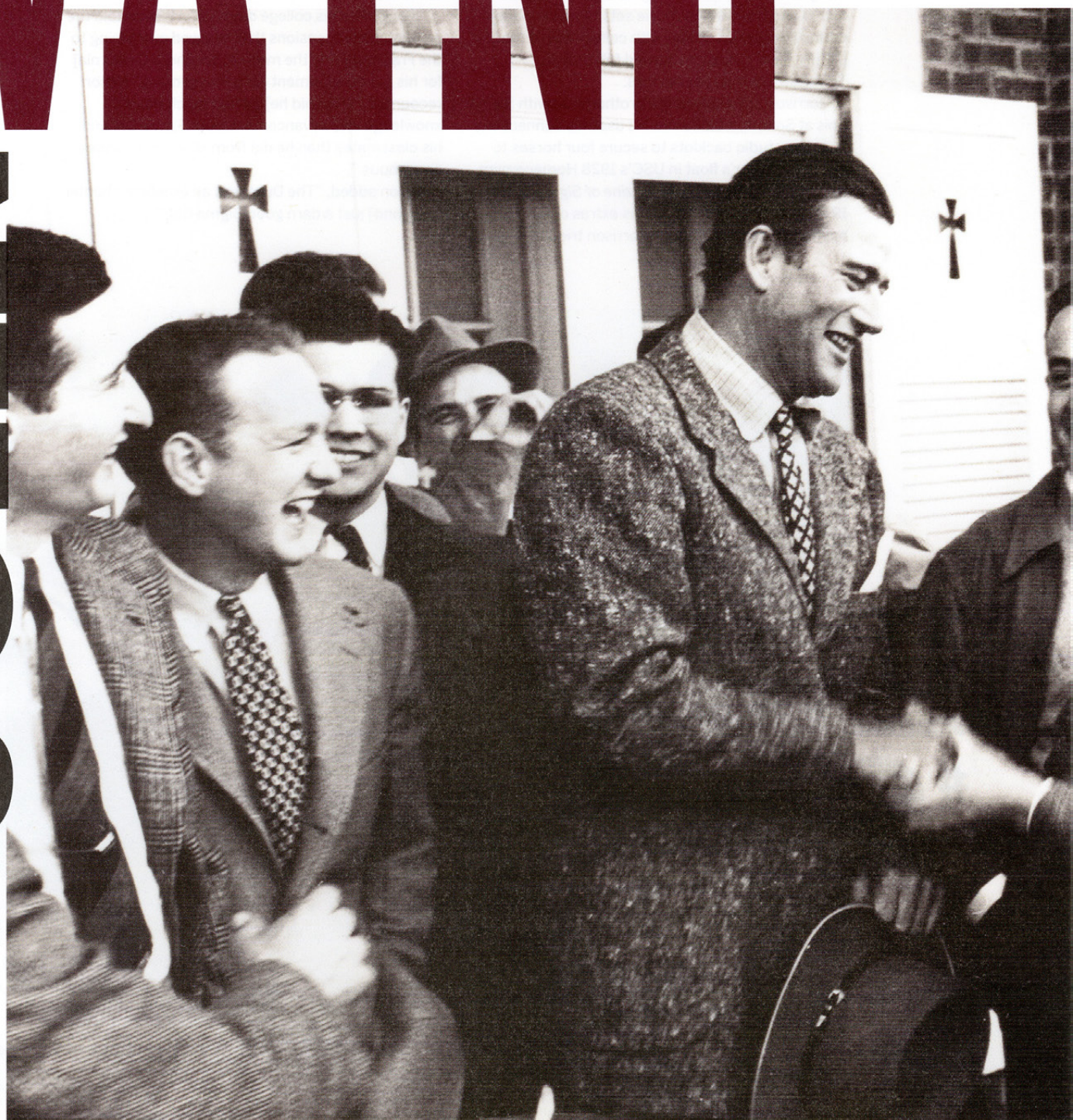
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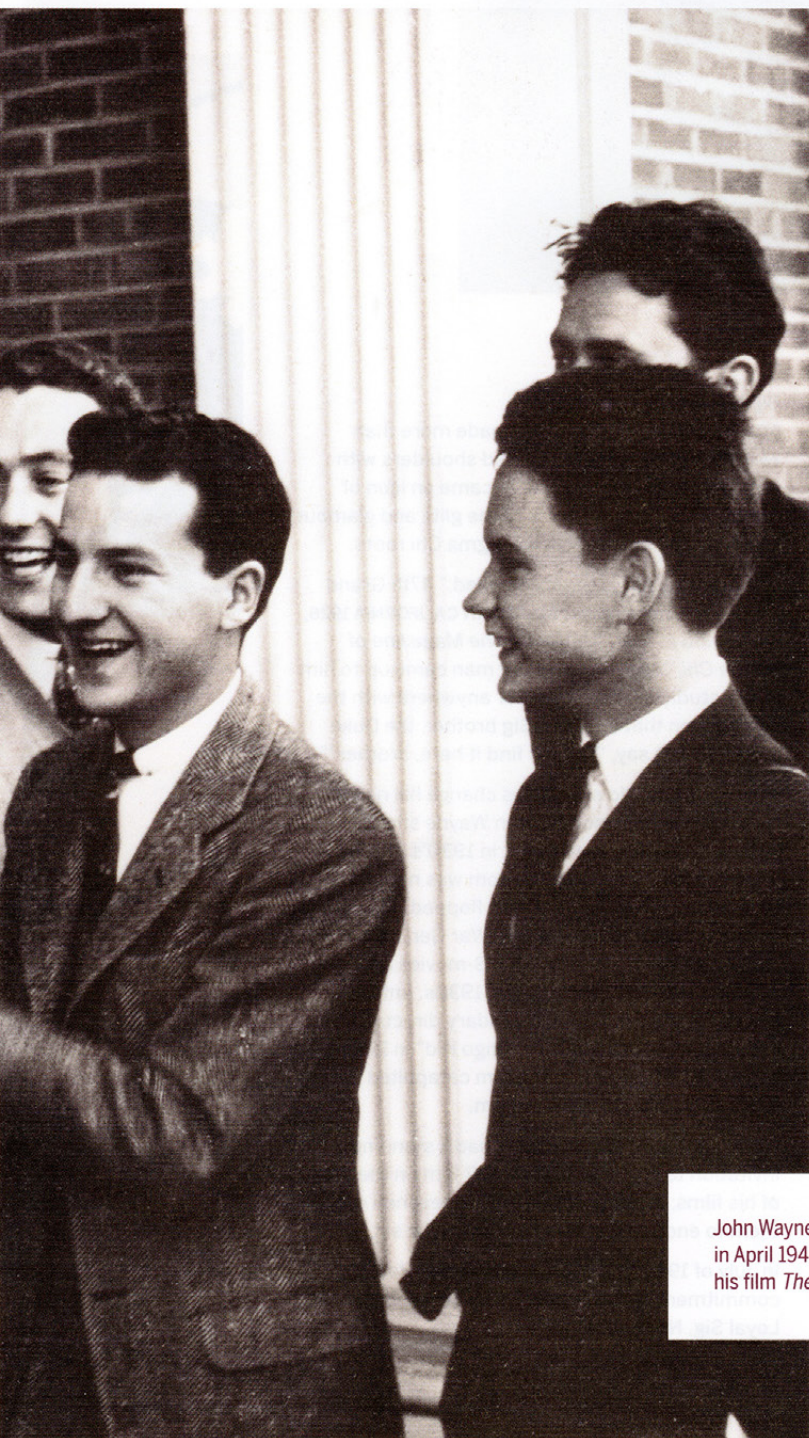


WAYNE

JOHN



Supportive **ALUMNUS**



For John Wayne,
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1926,
becoming a Sigma Chi
was truly a lifelong
commitment. Until his
death in 1979, he
remained loyal and
generous in his support
of the Fraternity.
Following, we highlight
his contributions as
an alumnus.

by Jamison Webb

John Wayne, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929**, visits the Sigs of Kansas
in April 1940. The Duke was in Lawrence, Kan., for the premiere of
his film *The Dark Command*.



The Duke speaks at a banquet in 1968, held in his honor by the Southern California Sigs.



As movie shoots and promotional tours took Duke around the United States, he frequently found himself among Sigma Chis. On a May 8, 1969, stop in Laramie, Wyo., during a tour that commemorated the 100th anniversary of the inception of the country's first transcontinental railroad, members of the Wyoming chapter presented the Duke with a derby in honor of Derby Days. The Duke then joined the Sigs for a rousing rendition of *My Name is Sigma Chi, Sir*.

Constantine Sig Dan Nelson, WYOMING 1969, an undergraduate at the time, was chosen by his chapter brothers to present the derby to the Duke. "[The Duke] just towered above me," Nelson laughs and says as he remembers the day. "I had to look up to him, in all terms of what that means. All [of] the [Wyoming] Sigs stood taller for the rest of that school year [for having seen John Wayne]."

The above photo, autographed by the Duke, hangs in Nelson's home in Laramie.

Significant Sig John Wayne, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1929, made more than 150 films in his lifetime, rubbed shoulders with presidents and queens and became an icon of American culture. Amid all of the glitz and glamour, however, he never forgot his Sigma Chi roots.

"He was always Fraternity-minded," 47th Grand Consul M. Craig Nason, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1926, recounted in a 1979 letter to *The Magazine of Sigma Chi*. "Any time a young man came up to him at the studio, on the street, or anywhere with the information that he was a Sig brother, the Duke would always say, 'You will find it here, brother.'"

Having had studio executives change his name from Marion Morrison to John Wayne shortly before his leading man debut in 1930's *The Big Trail*, the Duke's road to stardom was not immediate. When *The Big Trail* flopped, Wayne — 'renamed' after Revolutionary War Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne — appeared in B-movies and matinee serials for most of the 1930s, until his mentor and close friend, legendary director John Ford, cast the Duke as "the Ringo Kid" in 1939's acclaimed *Stagecoach*. The film catapulted the 32-year-old Wayne into stardom.

It has been said that the Duke had a standing invitation to any area Sigs to visit him on the sets of his films; in many cases, Wayne reached out to them to encourage them to stop by the set.

In July of 1942, the Duke registered his lifelong commitment to the Fraternity by becoming a Life Loyal Sig, No. 3,056.



Cartoonist Milton Caniff, OHIO STATE 1930, presents a drawing of John Wayne to the Duke. At back is Russ Stewart of Field Enterprises.



One of the Duke's most visible contributions to the Fraternity was to serve on the selection committee for the inaugural International Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, who was crowned in 1948. Wayne was on the committee with Significant Sigs Milton Caniff, OHIO STATE 1930, and Steve Hannagan, PURDUE 1922.

When Michigan State's Barbara Tanner was crowned the inaugural International Sweetheart at Grand Chapter in Seattle, her first dance was with the Duke. Wayne's involvement in the selection of the International Sweetheart—coupled with the beloved place that the song, *The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi*, held in popular culture—drew much media attention to the big event at Grand Chapter and to the Fraternity.

In addition to his duties on the International Sweetheart selection committee, Wayne received his Significant Sig Award at the 1948 Grand Chapter. The award cited Wayne for his ability and determination to succeed within the motion picture industry. It also noted that, "[...] in the world of make-believe you have not forgotten the loyalties engendered around the chapter hearth."

October 9, 1978

Dominick LaBarbera, Jr.
4923 Chariton
Tampa, Florida 33603

Dear Brother LaBarbera:

You may know that I am a fraternity Brother of yours. Because we're fellow Sigs, I hope you'll hear me out for what I have to say comes from my heart.

I entered Southern Cal on a football scholarship. I wouldn't have gone to college otherwise. When the men of Sigma Chi approached me about joining the Fraternity, as a freshman, I didn't know what to expect. But I joined, and I can tell you that it was one of the most personally rewarding decisions I've ever made.

A young man in college, even a football player, can get lost in the crowd. I became a Sig for much the same reasons as you probably did. What could replace those friendships? Many of my chapter Brothers are still good friends. Some of yours may be too.

Over the years, I've tried to remain close to Sigma Chi. I can tell you that our young Brothers now in school are as good a bunch as you'll ever find. That "common bond" is still alive, thanks in large part to alumni who have not forgotten the Fraternity.

Won't you join me in that effort to perpetuate Sigma Chi for them by becoming a dues payer or a Life Loyal Sig today? I don't lend my name to many causes, but this isn't exactly "a cause." I am writing to you on behalf of our Fraternity.....

In Hoc,

John Wayne
John Wayne
Life Loyal Sig 3056

JW/ch

P.S. As an active supporter you will receive THE MAGAZINE of SIGMA CHI. I read it regularly, and I'd bet you would enjoy every issue....



Throughout his time as an alumnus, the Duke remain involved in various Sigma Chi activities. He supported the bid for U.S. presidency in 1964 by Significant Sig Barry Goldwater, ARIZONA 1932, and the Duke lent his name to letters such as the one above, which was sent to brothers. The above letter urged brothers to become Life Loyal Sigs. Wayne also assisted with various undergraduate chapter recruitment materials.

In the 1970s, he became especially involved in the Fraternity's national philanthropy at the time, the Wallace Village for Children in Broomfield, Colo. The facility treated children and adolescents with minimal brain dysfunctions. The Duke visited Wallace Village on several occasions, posing for photos with patients. At right is one of those images.

In addition to financially contributing to the center, Wayne recorded a radio ad on behalf of the village. He also lent his name to a letter mailed in the mid-1970s to the members of the Fraternity.

The letter read, in part, "The Wallace Village project, to me, is probably the finest, most heartwarming act of unselfish giving in the history of Sigma Chi." The Fraternity later established an endowment fund for the Wallace Village in Wayne's name.



A DECADE

LIFE LOYAL SIG,
No. 3,056

Even in the Duke's final months, he showed his loyalty to the Fraternity and to his chapter brothers. When Wayne, diagnosed with stomach cancer, underwent surgery in January 1979 to have his stomach removed, he found an old friend down the hall from his room at the UCLA Medical Center — Significant Sig Leo Anderson, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA 1924.

In a February 1979 letter to his and Wayne's chapter brothers, Anderson recounted how the Duke stopped by for a visit on the morning that Anderson checked out of the hospital. Wayne looked thin, but he had not lost his sense of humor or his ability to take things in stride, Anderson recalled. "He was thinking of you fellows, and [...] wanted me to be sure to say 'hello' for him," Anderson wrote in the letter to the Southern California Sigs.

Several months later, on May 11, Sigma Chi mailed a letter to alumni from Wayne that called for financial support for Sigma Chi and its chapters. "I've [donated money to the Fraternity] because my Sigma Chi experience meant a great deal to me," the letter read. "It still does."

In closing, the Duke wrote, "We've already benefited from Sigma Chi. Let's continue to return something so others may enjoy the Fraternity as much as you and I did when we were in school. Good health to you ..."

Exactly one month later on June 11, 1979, the 72-year-old John Wayne entered the Chapter Eternal.