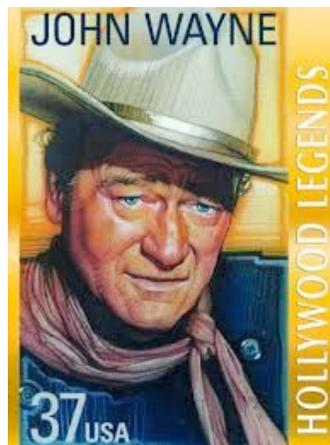


## Leonard Nimoy, John Wayne and their legacy

My son wrote a text message to me. It was simple and to the point, "Spock died today (Feb. 27, 2015) I am sad."



I started to think about it. Was Leonard Nimoy my generation's John Wayne? Both portrayed characters that were strong, basically quiet, principled, and bold with their own unique style and fought against injustice regardless of personal risk.



Just what did the 83-year-old actor Leonard Nimoy, AKA, "Spock" of Star Trek fame mean to us? Of course, it was his character of Mr. Spock whom the majority of us will miss. There are those of course who will miss the actor with his gentle strength and intelligent portrayals.

Let us consider what these two “Cinematic Titans” left us in their passing. The characters that they’ve portrayed are values that we hold dear, or at least admire in others.

Perhaps we need people like this to remind us in times when values seem to be under attack. I am thinking of the Martin Scorsese’s movie (2013) about Jordan Belfort portrayed by Leonardo DiCaprio who received laudatory praise for his criminal behavior in the movie about Wall Street executives. This true story depicting a clever psychopath who’s antics cost honest people millions of dollars.

Perhaps Spock is a reminder that truth trumps untruth. Honor defeats baseness and honesty wins out over immorality. These values have existed in literature and holy books throughout time.

Few would argue the attractiveness of many of the characters appearing in Star Trek regardless of their look. They were actors in a moral play about values that transcend time. They offer hope and point a direction to a moral compass that seems to spin in an amoral world losing its direction.

And so Mr. Spock, aka Leonard Nimoy, I add my name to that of my son Eric and say “I too am sad and will miss you”. The world’s stage has lost a fictional character beloved, admired and acted by a person who was real in the hearts of many and right in his actions and values. Perhaps he leaves us with the thought to ponder today and always “*Live Long and Prosper.*”

LLAP,

Dr. Barry Austin Goodfield

