

Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts
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Media Release – Oct. 7, 2014 New Mural in Twentynine Palms Celebrates Desert Protection

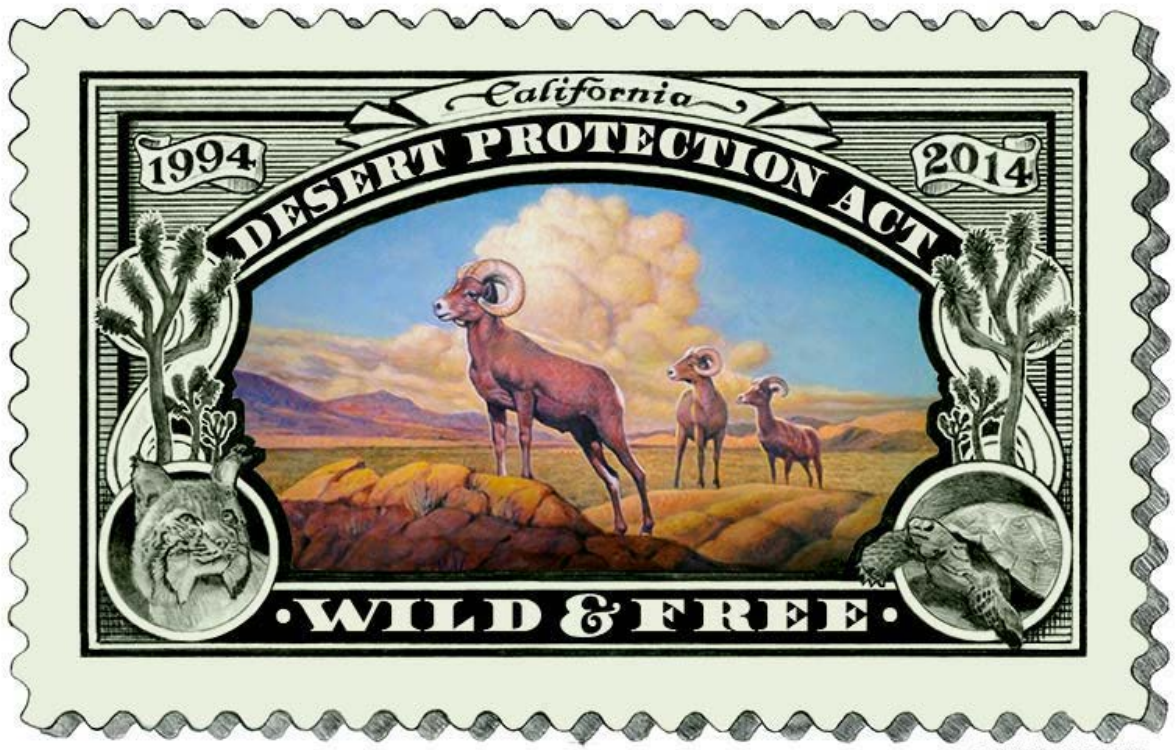
A new mural is taking shape this week in Twentynine Palms, located on the south wall of the Old Schoolhouse Museum on National Park Drive. For the first time in the history of the city's previous murals, this mural is a collaborative venture between two established mural artists, Chuck Caplinger and Art Mortimer, both residents of Twentynine Palms.

The mural celebrates the 20th anniversary of the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which enlarged and re-designated Joshua Tree and Death Valley as national parks, established the Mojave National Preserve, and designated 69 BLM Wilderness Areas in the California desert. Caplinger and Mortimer have designed their anniversary tribute mural as a vintage postage stamp, placed slightly askew on the museum's south wall, celebrating the CDPA and featuring a desert landscape with bighorn sheep in the center, joined by a bobcat, a desert tortoise, and Joshua trees on the stamp's decorative frame.

"The mural is sponsored by the Joshua Tree National Park Council for the Arts and paid for, in part, by a grant for community celebrations related to the 20th anniversary of the CDPA," said Executive Director Vickie Waite. "For the mural, we are working in partnership with Action Council for 29 Palms Inc. the 29 Palms Historical Society, and the Public Arts Advisory Committee of the City of Twentynine Palms."

Events are being held throughout the desert region this fall, from Coachella Valley to Death Valley, to celebrate the CDPA anniversary, Waite said. An event list is posted on the website www.caldesert20.org. "In our area, we will celebrate Nov. 13 to 16 in Morongo Valley, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Twentynine Palms. A dedication ceremony for the mural is planned for the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 15, followed by a Desert Dinner at Smith's Ranch on Saturday night, which will be co-hosted by the 29 Palms Chamber of Commerce. More details will be coming soon," Waite said.

Both Caplinger and Mortimer have painted murals throughout California over the past two decades, including Twentynine Palms. Caplinger's previous murals in Twentynine Palms include the Desert Storm Homecoming and Victory Parade on Adobe Road and the Desert Wildlife mural, which he later replaced with the giant lizard and roadrunner on the Smoketree Building. Mortimer recently executed the Key's Desert Queen Ranch mural-in-a-weekend on Adobe Road, and previously created the Flash Flood mural and two mural-in-a-day projects, the Boys Basketball Tournament in Luckie Park and TPHS Wildcats mural at Twentynine Palms High School. # # #



CAPLINGER & MORTIMER