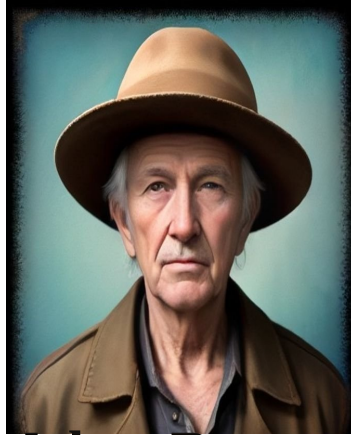




Walter Brennan

July 25, 1894 - September 21, 1974

Oxnard, California

Walter Brennan - Walter Andrew Brennan - American character actor and the first performer to win three Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor, died in Oxnard, California, on September 21, 1974, after a long struggle with emphysema. He was eighty. Born July 25, 1894, in Lynn, Massachusetts, he worked odd jobs, served in World War I, lost teeth in an accident that shaped his famous rasping voice, and then found Hollywood as an extra who refused to stay invisible.

Oscars for *Come and Get It* (1936), *Kentucky* (1938), and *The Westerner* (1940) made him the gold standard of supporting craft. Audiences later knew him as Grandpa Amos on television's *The Real McCoys*, a folksy role that never erased the sharper edges of his film work opposite Gary Cooper, John Wayne, and Howard Hawks. He could play crank, sage, villain, or comic foil without seeming to act - a skill younger stars envied and directors booked on sight.

Respiratory disease narrowed his last years. St. John's Hospital in Oxnard became the final stage after decades of ranch life and screen work that stretched from silents into color television. Family was with him when the struggle ended.

He died in Oxnard on September 21, 1974. The three Oscars still stand as a rare trifecta; the voice still sounds like American frontier weather.

Brennan's gift was lived-in authenticity - making supporting roles feel like the center of gravity. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 21 remembers the Massachusetts-born actor who proved character work

could win Hollywood's highest prizes three times.

Services

Died in Oxnard, California, September 21, 1974. Three-time Academy Award winner for Best Supporting Actor; star of *The Real McCoys*; World War I veteran.

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