

# Induction Ceremony

Sun, Jul 23, 2023

## **Josh Rawitch**

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2023 National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. We are so excited to have you with us here today in Cooperstown. My name is Josh Rawitch and I have the incredible honor of serving as the eighth president of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. As we begin our 74th Induction Ceremony in front of a live national television audience on MLB Network, I would like to welcome our master of ceremonies to introduce our returning legends, our returning Hall of Fame members. He's been with the MLB Network since 2011. He's the host of MLB Now, and he appears across much of the network's programming. He has a love and a commitment for baseball for the Hall of Fame, and for Cooperstown. In his sixth year as our master of ceremonies, please give a warm welcome to Brian Kenny.

## **Brian Kenny**

Good afternoon, everybody. Josh, thank you so much and welcome to the 2023 National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. What a glorious day, huh? It's like you have drawn up what you dream about. Since 1939, this village has enshrined the legends of baseball. So, are you ready for the roll call of the all time greats? Welcoming back 48 Hall of Famers. First up a five-time Cy Young Award winner. 303 career victories. He led the Arizona Diamondbacks to their 2001 World Series title. From the class of 2015, Randy Johnson.

## **Brian Kenny**

One of only five pitchers in the majors to play 25 seasons, he won 283 games and set a record with 16 Gold Glove Awards. Welcome to the stage three-time 20 game winner, from the class of 2022, Jim Kaat.

## **Brian Kenny**

In his first seven years in the major leagues, he hit an astounding 356. He led the American League in batting average five times and on base percentage six times. Later in his career, he helped the Yankees to a World Series Championship in 1996. From the class of 2005, Wade Boggs.

## **Brian Kenny**

He helped revolutionize the fireman role as a ninth inning closer and held the all-time record for saves for 13 seasons, finishing with 478. From the class of 2019, Big Lee Smith.

## **Brian Kenny**

He is one of only seven players to top 3000 hits and 500 home runs. He helped power the 1983 Orioles to a World Series title. An eight-time All-Star and a three-time Gold Glove winner. From the class of 2003, Eddie Murray.

**Brian Kenny**

The 1984 National League MVP, he won nine straight Gold Glove awards at second base and in separate seasons had as many as 40 homeruns and 54 stolen bases. From the class of 2005, Ryne Sandberg.

**Brian Kenny**

The first catcher to start an All-Star game for both the American League and the National League. He's also an eight-time All-Star. He remains second all-time and hits and RBIs among those who spent the majority of their careers behind the plate. From the class of 2020, Ted Simmons.

**Brian Kenny**

He threw an incredible 60 shutouts in his career ninth best in the history of baseball. He struck out over 3700 batters, number five all-time. From the class of 2011, Bert Blyleven.

**Brian Kenny**

He was a starting shortstop in the major leagues at the age of 18, the American League MVP in both 1982 and 1989, a Gold Glover, three-time Silver Slugger, and a member of the 3000-hit club. From the class of 1999, Robin Yount.

**Brian Kenny**

One of the game's great competitors, he is a 13-time All-Star for the Kansas City Royals. He was the American League MVP in 1980, hitting 390 while also leading the league in on-base and slugging percentage. From the class of 1999, George Brett.

**Brian Kenny**

He guided the game through a period of unprecedented growth through his 23-plus years as the ninth commissioner of baseball. From the class of 2017, Major League Baseball's Commissioner Emeritus Bud Selig.

**Brian Kenny**

He has long been a fan favorite for the Chicago Cubs known for his consistency and his durability. He set the National League record for consecutive games played. He finished with a lifetime 290 batting average and 426 career homeruns. A six-time All-Star, from the class of 1987, Billy Williams.

**Brian Kenny**

He led the American League in homeruns three times and is the last man in the American League to top 400 total bases, doing so in his MVP season of 1978 for the Boston Red Sox. From the class of 2009, Jim Rice.

**Brian Kenny**

In his first 11 seasons, he had a staggering 440 on base percentage. He finished with 521 homeruns winning two American League MVP awards from the class of 2014, The Big Hurt, Frank Thomas.

**Brian Kenny**

He was both a Cy Young and MVP coming out of the bullpen. Averaging a now unheard of 120 innings a season out of the bullpen for 12 years. His postseason work helped lead the Oakland A's to three straight World Series championships. From the class of 1992, Rollie Fingers.

**Brian Kenny**

He won 270 games, had over 2800 strikeouts, all while pitching in the rugged AL East his entire career. A five-time All-Star from the class of 201, Mike Mussina.

**Brian Kenny**

Known as a major run producer, he was top 10 in the National League in RBIs 11 times driving in 90 runs or more in 12 of 14 seasons. A seven-time All-Star with the Big Red Machine. Please welcome back Hall of Fame class of 2000, Tony Perez.

**Brian Kenny**

An all around five tool player with great years for the Expos and Cubs. At the time of his retirement, one of only two players to have over 400 homeruns and 300 stolen bases. From the class of 2010, The Hawk, Andre Dawson.

**Brian Kenny**

One of the great pitchers of the 1960s. He had six 20-win seasons. A six-time All-Star as well, from the class of 1983, The Dominican Dandy, Juan Marichal.

**Brian Kenny**

A stellar all-around shortstop in Detroit for two full decades. The wire-to-wire 1984 Tigers also won seven of eight playoff games enroute to a World Series Championship. This infielder in that postseason slugged 806 and won the World Series MVP. From the class of 2018, Alan Trammell.

**Brian Kenny**

Our next hall of famer is a 12-time All-Star, a seven-time Gold Glove Award winner and a member of the 3000-hit club who also hit 465 career home runs. A longtime star for the Padres and the Yankees, he also helped Toronto to their first ever World Series title. From the class of 2001, Dave Winfield.

**Brian Kenny**

In the volatile world of relief pitching, he was a constant with the San Diego Padres. 601 career saves and the most games finished in the history of the National League. Welcome from the class of 2018, Hall of Famer Trevor Hoffman.

**Brian Kenny**

An incredibly durable pitcher, he averaged over 300 innings a season for a nine-year stretch, a seven-time 20 game winner and the first Canadian-born Hall of Famer from the class of 1991, Ferguson Jenkins.

**Brian Kenny**

He led the Boston Red Sox to championships in 2004, 2007 and 2013, hitting a combined 455 and winning World Series MVP award 10 years ago this fall. The owner of the most career home runs by a DH please welcome back 10-time All-Star and a Hall of Famer of the last year's class of 2022, Big Papi, David Ortiz.

**Brian Kenny**

A slugging first baseman who also excelled on the base paths and on the field with a lifetime 408 on-base percentage, the National League MVP in 1994. From the class of 2017, Jeff Bagwell.

**Brian Kenny**

Bursting onto the scene in the big leagues with back-to-back American League batting titles in his first two full seasons, this pure hitter earned All-Star game selections and MVP votes in eighth straight campaigns with the Minnesota Twins. The 1964 American League Rookie of the Year from the class of 2022, Tony Oliva.

**Brian Kenny**

He put together the World Series Champion Blue Jays of 1992 and 1993 and later the Phillies championship team in 2008. From the class of 2011, general manager Pat Gillick

**Brian Kenny**

He was a five tools shortstop, the first shortstop ever with 30 homeruns and 30 steals in the same season. A 12-time All-Star and the 1995 National League MVP. From the class of 2012, Barry Larkin.

**Brian Kenny**

His 3319 hits have been number five all time in the history of the American League. He also stole over 500 bases while leading the Milwaukee Brewers to a pennant and the Blue Jays to a World Series title. The 1993 World Series MVP Hall of Fame Class of 2004, Paul Molitor.

**Brian Kenny**

One of the most consistent run producers of the 1980s and 90s. He is one of only 17 players in history with at least 2800 hits and 1600 RBIs. From the class of 2019 Harold Baines.

**Brian Kenny**

He had 310 career saves while topping 100 innings in a single season four times as a relief pitcher. A nine-time All-Star he helped the New York Yankees to a World Series title in 1978. From the class of 2008, Goose Gossage.

**Brian Kenny**

A standard of excellence in power hitting has long been 500 homeruns. Our next Hall of Famer has 612. He hit 30 homers, 12 times knocked in nearly 1700 runs and his 1747 walks have him in the top 10 of all time. From the class of 2018, Hall of Famer Jim Thome.

**Brian Kenny**

This 14-time All-Star was a five-time Gold Glove Award winner at shortstop, a five-time Silver Slugger award winner, and a five-time World Series Champion all with the New York Yankees. Please welcome back, the class of 2020, The Captain, Derek Jeter.

**Brian Kenny**

A seven-time All-Star he led the league and stolen bases four times and won a batting title in 1986. His 808 stolen bases are the fifth highest all time and he finished his career with a 385 on-base percentage. From the class of 2017, Tim Lincecum.

**Brian Kenny**

A three-time batting champion and the National League MVP during his historic 1997 season with the Colorado Rockies. He also topped the National League in on-base percentage twice and slugging twice. From the class of 2020, Larry Walker

**Brian Kenny**

He has World Series rings with three different clubs pitching brilliantly for the 1984 Tigers and the 1991 Minnesota Twins, famously throwing the only 10-inning shutout in a game seven of the World Series. From the class of 2018, Jack Morris.

**Brian Kenny**

This pitcher won 355 games, second only to Warren Spahn in the live ball era. Five times he led the National League and innings pitched and park-adjusted ERA. A four-time Cy Young Award winner, from the class of 2014, Greg Maddux.

**Brian Kenny**

He set the all-time record for stolen bases and then added over 400 more, setting the standard for a leadoff hitter. He led the league in steals 12 time, had a career on-base percentage over 400 and holds the all-time record for runs scored. From the class of 2009, Rickey Henderson.

**Brian Kenny**

A switch-hitter who batted over 300 from both sides of the plate. He was the National League MVP in 1999. A great postseason player he finished with a 409 on-base percentage playing over 90 playoff games. From the class of 2018, Chipper Jones.

**Brian Kenny**

He is second all-time among managers in wins, winning six pennants and three World Series titles. One of the game's most innovative managers. Class of 2014, Tony La Russa.

**Brian Kenny**

The architect of the powerhouse Atlanta Braves qualifying for 14 consecutive postseasons and winning the 1995 World Series Championship. From the class of 2017, general manager John Schuerholz.

**Brian Kenny**

He spent most of his career managing in the Midwest for the Kansas City Royals, and then the St. Louis Cardinals with a style of aggressive base running defense and strong bullpen over 18 seasons, he won six division titles, three pennants and a World Series Championship. From the Hall of Fame Class of 2010, Whitey Herzog.

**Brian Kenny**

Finished his career with over 2400 hits and 500 stolen bases. But it was his incredible defense that brought him to Cooperstown. He is a 13-time Gold Glove Award winner and holds the shortstop record for assists. From the class of 2002, The Wizard, Ozzie Smith.

**Brian Kenny**

A star at second base, catcher, and center field in various seasons. He put up eye-popping numbers like 56 doubles and 50 stolen bases. 146 runs scored. He finished with 3060 hits, all with the Houston Astros. From the class of 2015, Craig Biggio.

**Brian Kenny**

A two-time MVP, he holds the record for homeruns by a shortstop with 431. He broke Lou Gehrig's record for consecutive games played, finishing with 2632 and didn't miss a single inning for five full seasons. Please welcome back The Iron Man, class of 2007, Cal Ripken Jr.

**Brian Kenny**

This manager is top five all-time in wins, leading the New York Yankees to six pennants and four World Series Championships. Also, a great player in his own right, he was the 1971 National League MVP. Class of 2014, Joe Torre.

**Brian Kenny**

At the age of 22, hit 45 homeruns and had 148 RBIs. The National League MVP in 1970, and again in 1972. He would be the World Series MVP in 1976. A 10-time Gold Glove catcher and the backbone of the Big Red Machine. From the class of 1989, Johnny Bench.

**Brian Kenny**

A spectacular center fielder with tremendous power. He also won 10 Gold Glove awards and hit 630 career homeruns the 1997 American League MVP from the class of 2016. Welcome back, Ken Griffey Jr.

**Brian Kenny**

And now for the class of 2023. He is one of only four men to lead both the American League and National League in homeruns and have ten 30 homerun seasons. When he was traded to the Atlanta Braves in 1993, Atlanta was nine games out of first place. In their next 68 games he'd drive in 55 runs and the Braves would be Division Champions. An outstanding postseason performer he slugged 507 in his 10 playoff series and lead Atlanta to its first ever World Series Championship. A five-time All-Star, he finished with 493 career homeruns. Please welcome to the stage Hall of Famer Fred McGriff.

### **Brian Kenny**

You can't leave anybody out. You'll get to see Fred later. Haven't seen that before. And finally, one of the most well-rounded third baseman in the game's history, winning eight Gold Glove Awards and was genuinely feared on the bases. He was the unanimous choice for the 1997 National League Rookie of the Year and a seven-time All-Star. He joined the St. Louis Cardinals in 2004, leading St. Louis to two National League pennants and the 2006 World Series Championship. The pride of Jasper, Indiana please welcome Hall of Famer Scott Rolen.

### **Brian Kenny**

Let's also welcome now to the stage and other special individual who will be a big part of today's ceremony. He is only the 10th Commissioner in the history of Major League Baseball a role he assumed in 2015. Previously, he served the game as the Chief Operating Officer and before that spent 15 years as the executive VP of labor relations. He is a native of nearby Rome, New York here in Upstate, and has been visiting Cooperstown nearly his entire life. Please welcome the Commissioner of Baseball, Rob Manfred.

### **Brian Kenny**

And finally, she has been involved with the Hall of Fame her entire life. Her grandfather Stephen Clark founded this Museum and Hall of Fame in 1936. Those who have come to Cooperstown over the years have seen her care for both this village and the Hall of Fame. The huge turnout that you see with all the Hall of Famers. Every year on Induction Weekend is a testament to her leadership and her devotion to keeping this place such a special place in both the baseball culture and in our hearts. She has served on the board of the Hall of Fame for 31 years, the last 23 as its chairman, please welcome to the podium, the chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Jane Forbes Clark.

### **Jane Forbes Clark**

Thank you, Brian, and good afternoon, and welcome to Cooperstown for the National Baseball Hall of Fame 2023 induction Ceremony. A summer tradition of ours for almost eight decades. And we're really happy you're here with us today. As I've said many times before, the National Baseball Hall of Fame plaque gallery is an extraordinary place and no one has described it better than Joe Morgan, our late friend, a member of the Hall of Fame's class of 1991 and the past vice chairman of our board when he said "Walking into the plaque gallery is like walking on, man, holy ground." and I don't think there's a man sitting behind me that would disagree with that. Of the 340 plaques that are currently located in the gallery 268 are players only 1% of those men to have ever played the major league game are honored here in Cooperstown. They're joined by 40 pioneers and executives, including our only female inductee, Effa Manley. 22 managers and 10 umpires. And of these 340 legends of the game 48 of them are sitting behind me. And today they're joined by Fred McGriff and Scott Rolen. Both Scott and Fred have had tremendous baseball careers, and like the men that they're joining, define the greatness of the game with their character, integrity, and sportsmanship. Today, we are also celebrating the Hall of Fame characteristics of service and sacrifice as we pay tribute to the USS Cooperstown and its crew. The United States Navy ship was commissioned on May 6th of this year in New York City, and the ship's name honors 70 members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame who put their baseball careers on hold to serve their country during wartime including the Civil War, World War One, World War Two and the Korean War. And as we salute these American heroes, and in recognition of all of those who

defend and serve our country, I would like to ask you all to please rise and remove cover, as we welcome four very special guests from Fort Drum, a military base located only two hours North of Cooperstown and home to the soldiers of the Army's 10th Mountain. Division. Please welcome Sergeant Benjamin Price, Sergeant Kevin Mitchell, Sergeant Andrew Fisher and Sergeant Gregory Schneider from Fort Drum's barbershop quartet to perform our National Anthem.

**Barbershop Quartet**  
(National Anthem)

**Jane Forbes Clark**

While today is a celebration of our national pastime and those all-time greats of the game that you see sitting behind me. We also now take a moment to recognize three men with Hall of Fame ties, who passed away in the last year. Last month, we sadly lost Ed Stack, who spent more than 60 years of his life in leadership roles with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, serving as the institution's president, as well as chairman of the Hall of Fame's board of directors. His vision guided the museum and let it grow in the stature to where it is now. And we were privileged to have him serve this institution and to serve this Village of Cooperstown. Ed's legacy of dedication, generosity and compassion were felt by many and will remain with us forever. And sadly, two of our Hall of Fame members passed away this last year. One of the greatest pitchers of his generation, Gaylord Perry had a remarkable 22-year major league career, which included 10 seasons with the San Francisco Giants. With 20 wins in five different seasons, he totaled 314 victories and more than 5000 innings pitched and became the first pitcher to win Cy Young Awards in both the American and National Leagues. Gaylord has left a lasting legacy in baseball. And he's also left a lasting legacy here in Cooperstown. We also lost Bruce Sutter. Bruce was a dominant closer who revolutionized pitching with his devastating split-fingered fastball and playing with the Chicago Cubs, the St. Louis Cardinals and the Atlanta Braves. Sutter saved 300 games in his career. Five times leading the National League and was named the 1979 National League Cy Young Award winner. Since he was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2006, his kindness his humility, his love for Cooperstown just sparked every time he returned here for Hall of Fame Weekend. I would like to ask you now to please observe a moment of silence as we remember these three men who dedicated their lives to baseball and to Cooperstown.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

Yesterday afternoon, we held our annual awards presentation at the world-renowned Glimmerglass Opera Theatre here in Cooperstown. We recognized three individuals for their extraordinary achievements in elevating our game. Our first award recipient Pat Hughes was presented with the 2023 Ford C. Frick Award, presented annually for excellence in baseball broadcasting. Pat has called Cub games on the radio since 1996 after on-air stints with the Minnesota Twins, and the Milwaukee Brewers. A nine-time winner of the Illinois Sportscaster of the Year award, Pat has called more than 6000 games during his 40-year career, including eight no-hitters. Please welcome, Pat Hughes.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

Our second award recipient John Lowe earned this year's Baseball Writers Association of America's Career Excellence Award. He spent nearly three decades covering baseball in Detroit for the Free Press after beginning his career in Los Angeles and Philadelphia. He covered 147 World Series games,



28 All-Star games and is credited with creating the statistic of quality starts for pitchers. Please welcome, John Lowe.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

Our final award recipient, Carl Erskine received the 2023 Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Hall of Fame's board of directors to an individual, whose extraordinary efforts enhanced baseball's positive impact on society and broadened the game's appeal and whose character integrity and dignity are comparable to the qualities exhibited by Hall of Famer Buck O'Neil throughout his life. Carl's time atop of pitching mound for the Brooklyn and later Los Angeles Dodgers, earned him a long list of accolades, but it was his life after baseball spent serving others that shines the brightest. He helped break down racial barriers as a teammate of Jackie Robinson and fought for those with intellectual disabilities. spending four decades as a volunteer and leader with the Special Olympics. Please welcome his son Gary, who was with us this weekend to represent his father.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

And let's have another round of applause for our award winners as they gather on the stage.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

It's now time to induct the first of our two members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. And as we begin, I would like to call your attention to the video monitor for a presentation about our first 2023 inductee, Fred McGriff.

**Video Footage**

**Jane Forbes Clark**

Fred, if I could ask you to join me. As chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, it is my honor to welcome you into the Hall of Fame family, Fred and ask the Commissioner to please read the inscription on your plaque.

**Rob Manfred**

Frederick Stanley McGriff. Fred, Crime Dog. Toronto AL 1986 to 1990. San Diego NL 1991 to 1993. Atlanta NL 1993 to 1997. Tampa Bay AL 1998 through 2001 and 2004. Chicago NL 2001 2002. Los Angeles NL 2003. Crushed the ball with consistency for 19 seasons using smooth left handed swing to amass 493 homeruns and 1550 RBI. Hit 30 or more homers 10 times the first to do so for five different teams. Finished among his league's top five in long balls in OPS in seven straight seasons 1988 to 1994, topping the AL in homers in 1989, and the NL in 1992. Delivered heroics as cleanup hitter for the 1995 World Series Champion Braves and hit 303 in 50 career postseason games. Three-time Silver Slugger at first base, and five-time All-Star earned 1994 All-Star game MVP honors.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

Thank you, Commissioner.

## **Jane Forbes Clark**

Each year, our Hall of Fame members receive a unique ring that commemorates their induction. In the past, we've given this ring which recognizes each Hall of Famer with his last name, position and year of induction given them their ring at a private member's dinner that usually happens tonight. But in what we feel is a new wonderful tradition, we will now present it on stage as part of this induction ceremony.

## **Fred McGriff**

Oh hello. What a beautiful day. Everyone here from Atlanta to San Diego, Toronto, my hometown of Tampa Bay and everywhere in between. Thank you for showing up. It's awesome to be here, accepting this honor. What a blessing from the man upstairs. Beautiful weather. You can't beat it. I'm so grateful to be going into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Alongside a guy like Scott Rolen who played the game the right way. A true professional. I want to thank the many living legends sitting behind me. I'm humbled and honored to be standing in front of you. And now to be part of this fraternity alongside you mean just some great individuals behind me. I want to thank Jane Forbes Clark and her staff, Josh, Jon and Whitney, for all their work to get me ready for this special day and the entire staff that works behind the scenes at the museum make this place so special. I also like to thank the members of Contemporary Baseball Era Players Committee, who elected me. When your career is validated by former players and executives who saw you play that's as good as it gets. I will never forget getting that call from Jane last December. About a month earlier I talked to the Hall of Fame folks about how this voting works? They told me, if elected, I receive a call before it was announced on MLB Network and please don't put it out there to go on social media. I'm like cool, it's all good. So, when my phone rang, and my caller ID showed us from the Hall of Fame with my wife and daughter at home. I slipped into my office and closed the door. Answered the phone and heard Jane say congratulations. You've been unanimously elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. It was the best phone call of my life. Now remember, they told me to be careful by getting it on social media. So, I'm whispering to Jane, okay, thank you. I went back into the living room and wife and daughter were. I didn't tell them about the news. I played calm, like I knew nothing. I just told them. Hey, they're going to announce who got into the Baseball Hall of Fame at eight o'clock on MLB Network, so let's turn it on. Believe me, it was pure joy and happiness on my wife's and daughter's face when it was announced that I was the next electee for the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Then they both looked at me and said: you knew! It was great. It's hard to put today's induction into perspective. This is baseball's biggest honor. This is like icing on a cake. You see, my goal was simply to make it to the big leagues. And I exceeded every expectation I could ever imagine. And then some. It was a great feeling. getting recognized for your hard work. And now to have a plaque forever hanging in the National Baseball Hall of Fame. It's unbelievable. What is your dream? Since elementary school mine had been to play in the Major Leagues. It's been a long journey. A lot of hard work put in, 1000s of hours trying to get better but I can tell everyone. A computer can't measure what's in someone's heart and I always had heart. Growing up in Tampa, Florida. In my Lincoln Gardens neighborhood, I couldn't help but love baseball. I was always around it. I lived less than a mile from the Cincinnati Reds complex and Al Lopez Field where the Reds played spring training games and their minor league team the Tampa Tarpons play. The Reds were great back then. Big Red Machine. Grinch, Perez, Morgan. Just awesome people awesome team was wonderful, great time. And from time to time, me and my friends got tickets to the game. Best part about those games was if you return the foul ball to the team, you got a Coke and hot dog. We couldn't wait for a ball to go foul, and the mad scramble began. And because I lived about a mile from my Little League park, me and my buddies

spent a lot of time playing ball there, or at the Boys and Girls Club. We just picked teams and played. We all got along. It didn't matter where you're from. It was great. Just to get out and play. When the lights come on. You know it's time to go home. And I entered Tampa Jefferson High School my sophomore year and I tried out for the varsity baseball team. As my school didn't have a JV team. I'd always been either a pitcher or a first baseman in the league, but they had a senior first baseman. I knew that he was good man. So, I figured to make that team I would have to try out for the outfield. Other than one ball, ground ball getting past me. I thought I did okay. At the last day of tryouts. the coach Pop Cuesta said I'll post who made the team outside the locker room later tonight. With a flashlight I'd look for my name. When i didn't see my name on that list, it was disappointing. But that's how I found out I got cut. I'm just saying. When I saw Pop back in school, he was my driver's ed teacher. He told me to keep working hard and get stronger. I could have quit playing baseball, but I didn't. Instead, it motivated me. I started riding my bike about three miles each way to the gym. I got stronger and I continued to play ball. The next year and tried out again and I made the team. But to this day, I know they still tease Pop about cutting me in 10th grade. Two years later, in 1981 I was selected in ninth round of the baseball draft for a New York Yankees. I will always be thankful for the Yankees for giving me a chance to continue to pursue my dream. Once I signed, I bought my first car, a maroon and white Cutlass Supreme and I left home at 17 years old, driving down to Yankee rookie league team in Bradenton, Florida. I went out and got off to a little bit of a slow start to my career and hit a buck 48 with zero homeruns in 81 at bats. It was quite the learning experience. But I realized you have to treat baseball like as a job. So, I doubled my effort. I was on a mission to improve as a hitter. It was time to work. That meant becoming a student of the game, reading books, watching videos about hitting. Charlie Lau's "The Art of Hitting .300" became my go to book. It was like my Bible. I read that book so many times during my career from cover to cover many days and nights, especially when I was struggling in a slump trying to figure it out. George Brett was on the cover, and they had a lot of pics of George Brett. And he was the man, so I've had to pattern myself after George. And George was unbelievable hitter. I repeated rookie ball the next year and I hit much better. Especially against the Blue Jays farmhands that got me traded to Toronto in the offseason. Jays' General Manager, Pat Gillick who's sitting up here. He saw the potential. I was happy because when you have teams trade for you. You know you got a chance. And four years later, after riding those buses through the Carolinas and Smoky Mountains and then playing up here in Syracuse, my triple-A manager Doug Ault, gave me the news. You going to the big leagues. I couldn't believe it. I was about to reach my ultimate goal. And my first phone calls went to my mom and dad. And on May 18th, 1986, at Exhibition Stadium up in Toronto, Canada, I had my first at bat against Don Schultze, right-handed pitcher with the Cleveland Indians. I never forget it. I singled up the middle. And that was the moment I started living my dream and yes, I still have the ball. When I got traded to San Diego. Pat Gillick told me, his wife Doris, was very mad at him. I knew baseball is a big business, and trades are part of the game. While in San Diego I played on some good teams with a bunch of great players, like Hall of Famer, Tony Gwynn, who I wish was sitting here behind me. What a true professional magician with the bat. He hit the ball wherever he wanted. It was pretty impressive. I enjoy my time as a Padre. Then general manager Joe Mcllwain got orders in the middle of season, from his bosses to trade a few players to lower payroll. That's when another guy on the stage, John Schuerholz traded for me, bringing me to the Braves. Joe Mcllvaine was doing me a favor and trading me closer to as Tampa as possible. I was very excited to be joining the team. I've got a couple of plays away from winning back-to-back championships. In 1991 and 1992 I was nursing an injury when the trade happened. I drove to Atlanta. I left Tampa at noon. I didn't expect to play. But

when I got to the ballpark, there was my name in the lineup. I was sweating. I believe the man upstairs bought me some time when a food heat lamp caught on fire and the start of the game was delayed two hours. Long enough for me to get some more treatment and I felt a little bit better. I started the game, and I tied it up in the sixth inning with the homerun. The next day, I hit two homeruns and the Braves team caught on fire. We ended up catching the Giants after being 10 games out of first place the time of the trade and we won the division. The 93 team was the best team I believe ever played on with Glavine, Maddux and Smoltz pitching plus Bobby Cox, leading the way. Two years later in 1995, with the healthy Chipper Jones it all came together. We finally pulled it off and won the first championship for the city of Atlanta, the proudest team moment of my career. Then I got an opportunity to go home and play in front of family and friends. When I joined the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to be part of first season of big league baseball in Tampa area. That's where I got to play alongside Wade Boggs. He's also from Tampa. When I first met Wade about 20 years earlier, he helped me out tremendously. We had a nice little two-hour conversation and we talked hitting and when I was in the minors, I looked for a lot of breaking balls and I guessed and so forth. Then Wade told me, Fred, look for that fastball on every pitch. And I did and it worked. So, to Wade, thank you. I was traded to Chicago and took a spin through Los Angeles before coming back home again to Tampa. I was blessed to play major league baseball for 19 seasons. What a journey. What a dream. Playing in front of some great fans. I can't name everyone who's helped me, but I want to tell you about a few individuals to help shape my journey along the way. During my time in the Yankees rookie ball, one person that kept me working was Ed Napoleon. He was a baseball lifer with over 40 years in the game as a manager, player and coach. He said, son, I want you out here early at 8am every morning and we're going to work, and he hit me ground ball after ground ball. We worked all the plays first baseman is involved in and it became a part of my daily routine for the rest of my career. And I didn't realize at the time, or later in life. I came to understand this man went above and beyond to help me become a better ballplayer. Now to my good friend and workout partner former Mets great, Dave Magadan. Me and Dave would throw batting practice to each other. Then hit ground balls to one another to try to get us ready for spring training. Most of the time at Dave's old high school Tampa Jesuit, where the students would come out and shag for us while me and Dave was hitting. It was awesome. We didn't have to pick up the balls and nothing. It was outstanding. It was hilarious because they threw me nothing but strikes. It was great. He got me ready. And then when I flew to Dave, I was all over the place. I hit him a few times, "I'm sorry, Dave". But it was it was great. And we worked out from once he graduated from college until the end of our careers every offseason. Me and Dave. Cito Gaston was my hitting coach in Toronto. And we hit and hit. We spent a lot of time working on hitting mechanics we would hit before spring training games, after spring training games during the season. We even take batting practice on the road. Five hours before the start of the game. Cito would get the young players like me and Cecil Fielder. It wasn't an option. You had to be there. We hit all the time. We couldn't help but to get better. We worked. All my teammates, coaches and trainers in Toronto, San Diego, Atlanta, Tampa Bay, Chicago, and Los Angeles. You're all part of this recognition. You helped me live out my dream. Thank you so much. No two people have bigger impacts on my life than my mom and dad. They both had passed away, but my mom and dad, they were my number one fans. And all the ushers and concession stand workers, they all knew Mrs. McGriff. She let everyone know who her son was. I'd walk around the park "Oh yeah, Fred, I saw your mom, she was nice. I love your mom." It was a content. My mom was a schoolteacher. My dad on the TV repair shop. They never pushed me to play baseball, but they always supported me. They both drove me to my games and practices, and I know they're both looking down smiling today,

so proud of their youngest son. Big brother, my sisters, Terrie, and Sandra. Thanks for being great role models and showing me the way and always being there for me growing up. I was a little brother. Surprise package. Thank you. To my son and daughter, Erick and Ericka. Remember when used to join me on the road trips. You tossed me rolled up socks for me to hit in hotel rooms. Those are moments, I'll always remember. When you're struggling and you got to do something. I would take a roll up a newspaper, her Erick, Ericka, just this and you'd be alright, you know? I gotta be ready for tomorrow. You'll always be my kids. You've turned into such impressive people. I'm so proud of you both. To my wife, Veronica, who has been with me since we work together at Burger King. And who has prayed for me every step of the way. Great mom. Thank you. You raised them and travelled all over with them that allowed me to pursue my dream focus on my game more than anyone, this honor is yours too. I love you. I'm humbled to be standing on the stage. Some of the greatest players to ever played his game. Honestly, would have been happy, just playing one day in the big leagues. This means a lot to me. I encourage you. Whatever your dream is to never give up. And always remember to stay true to who you are. There'll be fires along the way. Those fires can ignite the spark to the next season of your life. Thank you all again for being here today. God bless you all.

**Brian Kenny**

Fred, beautifully done. Congratulations. And congratulations to the McGriff family back there as well. Congratulations to you. And before we get to our next inductee, I'd like to welcome back up to the stage the Fort Drum barbershop quartet for Cooperstown's version of the seventh inning stretch with an encore performance of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame". But first if you could rise and remove your hats as they sing "God Bless America".

**Barbershop Quartet**  
(God Bless America)

**Brian Kenny**

The Fort Drum barbershop quartet. Thank you for joining us today.

**Barbershop Quartet**  
(Take Me Out to the Ballgame)

**Brian Kenny**

Now let's hear it again. The Fort Drum barbershop quartet. Thank you, gentlemen. That performance was a great lead into our next segment dedicated to the newly commissioned USS Cooperstown and its crew. Please welcome back to the podium the chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Jane Forbes Clark, who represented the Hall of Fame members as honorary sponsor of the USS Cooperstown.

**Jane Forbes Clark**

Thank you, Brian. I have been so honored to be serving as the honorary sponsor of the USS Cooperstown representing our Hall of Fame members. The United States military and baseball have always been linked with a strong connection between the Hall of Fame and the armed forces anyone else and never have those bonds been stronger than they are today. When the USS Cooperstown was

commissioned in New York City earlier this year, it became the 23rd littoral combat ship in the United States Navy as you know, the ship is named for the 70 men who pause their baseball careers to serve the United States military during times of war. As you also know, just over 1% of those who've ever played the game, have a plaque in the gallery. And yet, of the 342 legends we honor in the Hall of Fame, 20% serve their country, which tells you a little bit about the depth of character and courage of these men. In the gallery, we honor their sacrifice with a medallion beneath their plaque, which notes their branch of service and conflict in which they served. Many of the ship's crew have visited the Hall of Fame, spent time in the gallery looking at the plaques of these 70 men over the last two years. And we have we have also had a wonderful time visiting the ship. We were asked by the Navy to make the ship special. So, each of the USS Cooperstown state room doors is marked with a replica of one of our Hall of Fame war veterans' plaques. And our curatorial staff installed an exhibit onboard the ship with artifacts highlighting the career and character of Chief Petty Officer Bob Feller, the first major league player to enlist in the military immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. And there are multiple Hall of Fame quotes about baseball, country, and the military throughout the ship on its various surfaces. The crew loves their connection to baseball, and to the Hall of Fame legends who served in the military, and they refer to themselves and this is their official name, "America's Away Team" and on the ship itself, they call themselves "The Heavy Hitters". So, ladies and gentlemen, as we roll video of the USS Cooperstown and the names of the 70 Hall of Famers who served this country's military during wartime, I'd like to ask Hall of Fame member Johnny Bench, class of 1989, to join me. Johnny grew up in a military family and in 1966, enlisted in the Army Reserve for six years, during which time he became a field wireman with the 478 Engineer Battalion with Fort Drum as one of his duty stations. Johnny has been committed to the USS Cooperstown since its naming in 2015 and was present with Hall of Famer Joe Torre, at the ship's commissioning in May, and served as the prestigious Long Glass presenter. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome 14-time All-Star, 10 Time Gold Glove Award winner, two-time National League Most Valuable Player and two-time World Series Champion, Johnny Bench.

### **Johnny Bench**

Thank you, Jane. And what a great honor it is to be here with you today. Thank you for the opportunity to share just a few thoughts on the USS Cooperstown as it was an incredible honor to be part of the commissioning back in May. Before I talk about this event, I want to congratulate both Fred and Scott. You are now a member of one of the greatest teams that you'll ever be a part of, and we congratulate you and your families. I know that Scott and his family had planned to be with us at the commissioning back in May, as his father Ed, is a Navy veteran. While they could not make it then we're honored to have Lieutenant Junior Grade Rolen here with us today, as well as all of those in attendance who serve. Thank you so much for your service, Lieutenant Junior Grade Rolen, where are you? For all of those who served Thank you very much. Thank you. Really that's what the USS Cooperstown is all about. It honors the 70 Hall of Famers who stepped away from their baseball careers to serve during wartime. At the commissioning you could truly feel how much it meant to the sailors who are serving on the ship. As I stand here today, I think about my father who served in the 1st Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He instilled in us all the values I carry with me today and helped me understand the sacrifice made by so many who provide freedoms that we enjoy today. At the commissioning, I was honored to present the Long Glass, as Jane said, a symbol that represents the Officer of the Deck's authority. In doing so I could not help but think of my fellow Hall of Famers, like Chief Petty Officer Bob Feller, and 2nd Class Seaman Yogi Berra, who served as a gunner's mate in the Normandy landings during World

War Two and earned a Purple Heart. Or one of last year's inductee Navy boatswain Buck O'Neil, who led such a life of honor that the Hall of Fame's lifetime achievement award is named after him, as we saw earlier today. Or other legends I played against like Navy veteran Eddie Matthews, Army veterans, Ernie Banks and Willie Mays, who gave up their careers during a short period of time to serve our country. One of these men is here today with us today, and we are so glad to have him back for Hall of Fame Weekend. Let's have a big round of applause for Korean War veteran Whitey Herzog. These American heroes are just some of the names for which this ship is named. After the commissioning, we got that we got the chance to walk through the ship. The USS Cooperstown is amazing. And they put the plaques the replica plaques on the doors for all the sailors as they were going into their different offices. It was a tremendous honor to be there. It was so impressive. And the Hall of Fame has gone out of their way to endorse this and make this as comfortable but make them aware of our Hall of Famers. And there's always connected to the ships. It was an honor indeed to be with them and it's an honor need to be with you. Thank you.

### **Jane Forbes Clark**

Thank you, Johnny, and thank all of you for helping us salute America's Away Team. And now, I would like to call your attention to the video monitor for a short presentation about our second 2023 inductee Scott Rolen

### **Video Footage**

### **Jane Forbes Clark**

Join me and as Chairman of the Board of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, it's my honor to welcome you into the Hall of Fame family Scott, and to ask the Commissioner to please read the inscription on your plaque.

### **Rob Manfred**

Scott Bruce Rolen. Philadelphia NL 1996 through 2002. St. Louis NL 2002 through 2007 Toronto, AL 2008 to 2009 Cincinnati NL 2009 to 2012. Paired elite glove work with formidable bat to become a dominant two-way threat at third base, never appearing at another position in his big league career. Followed unanimous 1997 NL Rookie of the Year season in Philadelphia, with first of his eight Gold Glove awards in 1998. Blasted three homeruns in NLCS to help Cardinals win the 2004 pennant and two years later, led St. Louis to the World Series title batting 421 in the five-game set. Seven-time All-Star, an intelligent base runner retired as only one of three third basemen with 300 homeruns 500 doubles and 100 stolen bases.

### **Scott Rolen**

First, I want to thank everybody out here supporting us. I see baseball fans, families, family members, friends, everybody. I know not everybody's here for me, but I want to recognize some young men that I know are. I get the privilege of coaching my son's 15-year-old baseball team, the Indiana Bulls and 15 players that came from Bloomington, Indiana to be out here today and the whole team is here. I only brought one so Bulls stand up, recognized and stand up bud. Thank you, guys. We got to do it Red Bulls on three. 1, 2, 3... All right. Fred, Veronica, congratulations again. So well deserved and we're our

family is so excited to share this honor with you going forward forever, Fred. So, thank you. All right. I'll start with my wife, Nikki, and my kids, Raine and Finn right there. Nikki is you've been my constant, unwavering and loyal... that didn't work... and this journey you've been together with me every day and every step of the way, and I couldn't be here without you. Thank you. Raine and Finn, you're my best friends. You're every second of my life. I'm so proud of you. Want to thank the baseball writers for having faith and sticking with me throughout my career in the voting process? I'm grateful for this grand gesture. At no point in my lifetime did it ever occurred to me that I will be standing on this stage. But I'm glad it occurred to you because this is unbelievably special. Thank you. I assumed that this group would be quite intimidating, which it is but it's way more intimidating the group behind me standing here in front of these legends. This on this stage is baseball greatness. It won't occur to me anytime soon, that I will feel a sense of belonging with this group. But today gentlemen, I am truly honored to be up here on the stage with all of you. Thank you to Jane and Hall of Fame staff for your first-class professionalism and your incredible hospitality towards my family. I have an overwhelming respect and intend to represent these men behind me and this legendary Hall with the integrity on which it was built. I'm gonna read this one, it's getting big. I certainly have to thank my teammates managers, coaches, agents, trainers, clubhouse staff, front office, umpires, grounds crew, ushers, game day staff, owners, security, MLB, the Players\ Union, I could go on and on. They look thirsty I'm not going to. This is not a one man show. It's a wonderful game and we all work together. I've had the privilege of playing with four organizations. Derek and Chipper I'll have to explain that to you later. Each one has its own personal timestamp on my life and my career. I want to start with the Phillies and Philadelphia. Thank you for teaching me how to play the game with a genuine effort and honesty on the field and with the media. I was drafted, developed, given the opportunity and challenge to play with full effort and a toughness that I hope middle infield felt deep inside on the double play ball St. Louis, two World Series. One a winner. Four division titles, two National League Championships and most importantly, these two clowns in the front row. Nik and I started our family in no better place at no better time. Family is the operative word in this organization, their first class everything with unconditionally loyal fans. Thank you, St. Louis. Blue Jays and Toronto. short, but filling time in a great city and organization. You gambled on me in a tough time in my career and I truly appreciate you for it. I met good people, had great teammates, and made lifelong friends and memories. Thank you, Toronto. Finally, the Red Legs and Cincinnati. Walt came and got me again. Thank you for your trust and loyalty had breakfast with the kids in the clubhouse and a challenge to take on a different role in my career. I appreciate the exaggerated credit I was given. But in reality, it was an incredibly talented group of teammates with a hunger to go first to third to make it all happen. Thank you, Cincinnati. My major league career started on Aug. 1st, in 1996, on a scorching hot day at Veterans Stadium, in a double-header against the St. Louis Cardinals. That day my parents drove overnight from Florida (because mom is claustrophobic and won't get on a plane and has a fear of snakes, anyway). They made it to the first game of the double header in the top of the fourth inning. The greatest moment in my career happened that day. Seeing mom and dad walk to their seats from my position at third base was a feeling never topped again in my 17 years. My career ended on Oct 11, 2012, with a lonely walk back to the dugout after striking out, to end our Reds playoff run, as the San Francisco Giants celebrated on our home field. It was certainly not a Jeterish moment by any stretch. There are many stories to tell, and much baseball played between those two dates. But personally, in that time I became a man, a husband, a father, and I damn near traveled with Charley all over this great country. Baseball was my career, but it is not my story. My story begins and ends with the people sitting in front of me. My role models lived in the same



house as me. With eyes and ears open and for the most part mouth shut, I witnessed first-hand the deep love and care taking of my mother, my father's patience and sacrifice, my sister's strength and fierce loyalty, and my brother's optimism and perseverance in all challenges. That house was a modest home with a sunken living room, 2 Lazyboy recliners, and a wood burning stove that was pumping ungodly heat at all times. It was located in a value driven, hardworking, supportive community in Jasper Indiana. This is where I grew up. This is where I dreamed of being a major league baseball player. As a matter of fact, my first day of kindergarten mom picked me up and of course asked how my day went. I told her it was fine, and everyone was nice, but I think I'll just stay home from now on and practice baseball. So proud. I dreamed of being a major league baseball player, but I was not raised to be a major league baseball player. I was raised to be honest, to work hard, to be accountable for my words and actions, and to treat people with kindness and respect. I was not taught (in today's terminology), exit velocity, launch angle, and spin rate, rather I was taught please, thank you, excuse me, and I'm sorry. At my house, we built our own shed, mixed, and poured our own concrete for our basketball court in the back yard, and built our backboard with 2 x 6's. I was taught how to mow the lawn, change a tire, and shoot a jump shot. Baseball was a seasonal sport in my house, which allowed time for barnyard basketball in the woods, Indy 500 bike races around the neighborhood, and tennis balls as hard as you could throw from 20 ft. with a 4x8 sheet of plywood as the strike zone. When it got dark, we kicked a tin can around the neighborhood. All while being refreshed and rehydrated right out of the garden hose at Boxie's house. Our family vacations were in an RV. We drove everywhere and camped throughout the country, breaking down in what seemed like well over 20 states. I spent hours in the backyard by myself throwing the ball up and hitting it as far as I could. Always with a made-up game and generally a World Series scenario on the line, the better I got the higher I threw it. I spent winters and evenings in the family room throwing that damn tennis ball against the stairs. It was a simple childhood with simple expectations and lessons. Family first, we are loved and always take the high road. And then I got drafted and so began 20 years of hypertension and acid reflux that I would trade for nothing. Often people ask me how I got here how I got there. What's the secret? I actually have my answer. My answer came from my dad related to basketball, not baseball. He won't have any idea what I'm talking about right now similar to him saying one Thanksgiving that he never spanked us growing up. So, without much surprise, there's a heavy tradition of basketball in the state of Indiana. One such as a series of two games between the Indiana All-Stars and the Kentucky All-Stars played at the end of the summer. I was selected to the Indiana team and wore number 11. We were told the numbers were not in order though Mr. Basketball wore number one on a 12-man roster. Coincidence, I'm sure. I had previously been drafted by the Phillies and spent the summer playing high school baseball not basketball and had not picked up a basketball for two months. We had a three-day minicamp with two practices per day in Lafayette. After day one, I told dad that I had a minor problem. He was camping up there of course and I said dad, I have a minor problem that I need advice with and his answer. "Okay." Well dad, I can't handle the ball. I can't shoot. I'm completely out of basketball shape and everybody in the entire gym including the coach is better than me. And his answer, "okay". What do you mean okay? Well, what are you going to do Scotty?? Well, that's what I'm asking you dad. "Well, how the hell do I know? You say, you can't dribble you can't shoot, you're out of shape, and you're completely overmatched. You told me what you can't do? What can you do?" I guess I can rebound. "Okay." I can play defense. "Okay." I can die for loose balls. Doesn't appear that the guys are playing too hard up here. I can out hustle, out work and beat everybody up and down the floor. "Okay." And then here came the words of wisdom. "Well do that then." It turns out that "well do that then" carried me into the minor

leagues and gave me a simple mindset that I would never allow myself to be unprepared or outworked. "Well do that then" put me on this stage today. So, I think right now I'm speaking to my son and my daughter, and maybe your son and your daughter about effort. If you walk through the plaque gallery at the Hall. You will be blown away by baseball greatness. Baseball greatness is sitting behind me, and every person has their story and they told it right here. These stories are not all the same. But I'm not standing here today from base from my baseball greatness. Nor have I played one day in my life to prove anybody wrong. I'm standing here today made baseball wise from a basketball lesson that dad walked me through in 1993. To do that, then. I now know this phrase is an intentional mindset. That effort never takes a day off. I believe in putting in the quantity to know what quality is. I believe in the process. I believe in the approach. I believe in the work and I'm forever grateful for this advice. Well, Dad, I did that then. One last story I want to share is one I still cherish to this day. At the start of every home game as the ball is being thrown around the horn and I waited to hand it to our starter mom would stand and wave at me in the stands. In acknowledgement, I would subtly tip my cap by tapping it twice. My daughter who was five at the time, soon joined mom waving and eventually began wearing a cap of her own the games to tip it back to her dad. Thank you for that mom. I'll finish with this. In baseball. I am a Jasper Wildcat. I am an Indiana Bull. I am Philadelphia Philly. I am a St Louis Cardinal. I am a Toronto Blue Jay. I am a Cincinnati Red. And today because of all your support. I'm a National Baseball Hall of Famer. In life in my life, I am a friend. I am a brother. I am a son. I am a husband, and I am the greatest gift a father. So, Nik, Raine, Finn, Todd, sis, dad, and mom. Thank you. I love you.

### **Jane Forbes Clark**

Scott if you would join me back up here. And ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for joining us for the 2023 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Fred and Scott's plaque will be hung in the gallery within the next few hours, and we hope you can stop by and see them today if not, tomorrow morning. And don't forget to join us for our 2024 induction ceremony on Sunday July 21st. Ladies and gentlemen the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum class of 2023.