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OPENING DAY 2017 | VOLUME 39 | NUMBER 2 | THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE HALL OF FAME



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MEMORIES *and Dreams*

The Official Magazine of the Hall of Fame

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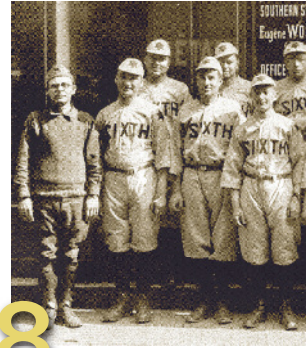
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LINEUP

OPENING DAY 2017 | VOLUME 39 | NUMBER 2



4 OVER THERE ... AND OVER HERE

100 years ago, baseball and its players were forever changed by World War I, yet still served as an inspiration for fans at home. SCOTT PITONIAK

8 BASEBALL'S "WAR GAMES"

Soldiers' training for The Great War included baseball during preparation for overseas battle. ANTHONY F. GERO

12 TERROR DURING WARTIME

Hall of Famers served in the elite Gas & Flame Division during World War I. JON ROSENGREN

14 HEALING THE WAR'S WOUNDS

Following World War I, the 1919 Inter-Allied Games in France featured the National Pastime. JIM GATES

18 DREAM COME TRUE

Class of 2017 to receive the game's ultimate honor July 30 in Cooperstown. CRAIG MUDER

20 EVERS GOES TO FRANCE

Kept from combat by injury, Johnny Evers still served his country in The Great War. JIM LEEKE

26 LITTLE JOE'S BIG CAREER

Hall of Famer Joe Morgan has devoted his life to the game – on and off the field. HAL BODLEY

31 NINE TO KNOW

The Class of 2017. BILL CHUCK

32 LATINO LEGACY

La Vida Baseball and Hall of Fame join forces to tell stories of Latin-American stars. ALEX COFFEY

34 HALL OF FAME HOMER

Tribute to THE SIMPSONS featured at May 26-28 Hall of Fame Classic Weekend.

36 TEAMING UP

John Schuerholz "awed" on Orientation Visit to Hall of Fame. BILL FRANCIS

38 THE GAMES MUST GO ON

75th anniversary of Green Light Letter offers insight on baseball's role in World War II. ALEX COFFEY

42 MYSTERY OF THE POLO GROUNDS

Monument to Eddie Grant graced the Giants' home for decades before going missing after the team left for San Francisco. BILL FRANCIS

44 LEGENDS IN FOCUS

Photographer Jean Fruth captures one Hall of Famer welcoming another to the game's most exclusive club.

46 OUR MUSEUM IN ACTION

These ongoing projects are just a few of the ways the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's mission is being supported today.

48 HOUSTON STRONG

Craig Biggio embraces the idea of another Astro joining the ranks of Hall of Famers. CRAIG BIGGIO



ON THE COVER

Illustrator Rob Johnson puts a 21st-century spin on Uncle Sam, the iconic image that was created to build support for America's entry into World War I.

FROM THE PRESIDENT > JEFF IDELSON



When speaking about Cooperstown's early claims as the birthplace of baseball, I often take the opportunity to dispel that beautiful and convenient myth: Abner Doubleday was in school at West Point in 1839, not in central New York.

Doubleday's true claims to fame are for his military acumen. He was reportedly the soldier who fired the first shot at Fort Sumter, for the Union side. So while Doubleday did not invent America's Pastime, it's plausible to believe he DID begin the defense of the Union during some of the darkest days in America's history.

Baseball's participation in the military started with the Civil War and remained prevalent through the Korean War. Morgan Bulkeley was the only future Hall of Fame member to participate in the Civil War, having first enlisted with the New York National Guard, then joining the Union Army as a private. He later became the National League's first president in 1876, and he was elected in the Hall of Fame's second class in 1937.

Three Hall of Famers have shared their military experiences with me over the years during my time at the Hall of Fame, and each had very different experiences: One by land, one by air and one by sea.

Bob Feller could not wait to enlist in the Navy for World War II, and came back to baseball stronger than ever. Monte Irvin returned from the Army during the Second World War and – like many returning African-American soldiers – had trouble re-adjusting in baseball's days before integration. Ted Williams served in the Marines not once, but twice, and loved the thrill of being a fighter pilot.

Feller enlisted just two days after Pearl Harbor.



Bob Feller lost almost four major league seasons to military service during World War II. He was aboard the *USS Alabama*, where he earned eight battle stars.

He wore an Indians uniform for his entire MLB career, but he was equally proud of his Navy dress blues, in which he was decorated seven times with eight battle stars, serving as an anti-aircraft gunnery captain aboard the *USS Alabama*. He spent four years serving America during the prime of his baseball career.

"Being in sports had nothing to do with being a good sailor," Feller told me a decade ago. "In 1944, we crossed the equator 28 times. We did a lot of practicing, like in sports. You play like you practice. So when we got into a conflict, we had practiced. We had a lot of very good anti-aircraft gunners. We never lost a man to enemy action."

One can safely surmise that Feller easily lost out on 100 victories on the diamond. A stretch of the imagination? Not in the least. After returning to the mound for the Indians late in the 1945 season, through May 1947, Feller made 55 starts and completed 46 of them, amassing a 34-19 record with a 2.11 ERA, 14 shutouts, five one-hitters and a no-hitter.

Irvin spent three years in the Army, starting in 1943, and served in the Battle of the Bulge. He had been a star for the Newark Eagles of the Negro Leagues and then won the Triple Crown playing in the Mexican League in 1942, before being drafted and deployed to England. He returned to the Eagles in 1946, and the talk around baseball was that he was under consideration to be the man to integrate the major leagues – until Jackie Robinson stepped into that role.

"The Army affected me both mentally and physically," Irvin told me. "I had a tough time, because my daughter had just been born, and I had been treated so royally in Mexico. Then I was in the Army, and am in a segregated situation, which got to me a little bit. Some of the other guys were OK with it, and why I wasn't able to cope, I just don't know. What I'm trying to say is that it took a while for me to regain that old feeling I once had for hitting, running, fielding and throwing. Before WWII, I was second to none."

Williams had two tours of duty in the service as a Marine, in World War II and Korea, costing him nearly five entire seasons. In Korea, he flew 39 missions and twice could have conceivably lost his life while airborne. When I asked him in 2000 about how he dealt with the fear of mortality, he said: "I was scared to death, holding on. I sat in the cockpit and I said: 'If there's anybody up there that can help me, now's the time to do it.'"

"I have to say this: I know how lucky I've been in life, more than anybody will ever know. I've lived a kind of precarious lifestyle, precarious in sports, flying and baseball. And, oh boy, I know how lucky I've been. The two things I'm proudest of in my life is that I became a Marine pilot and that I became a member of Baseball's Hall of Fame. I worked hard at flying. I wasn't prepared to go into it. Then I had to work hard as hell to try to keep going, to try to keep up. I did have reasonable flying abilities. I think that's as great an accomplishment as anything I'd done in my life. The other thing, of course, is that I had a great baseball career."

And like Feller, Irvin and hundreds of other ballplayers who sacrificed during wartime, Williams' life journey took him from the ballfield to the battlefield and back.

SHORT HOPS

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For more information and news from the Hall of Fame, visit baseballhall.org.

A night among the legends

Spend a night with baseball's legends in Cooperstown as part of the Museum's Extra Innings Overnights program.

Children ages 7-12 and their adult guardians can sleep in the Hall of Fame Gallery among the plaques honoring Babe Ruth, Ted Williams, Jackie Robinson and other greats.

The evening includes all-access to the Museum's public areas after hours, special hands-on programs and a late-night snack and movie in the Bullpen Theater.

Upcoming dates include April 22, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4. To book your experience today, call (607) 546-0313.

Hall of Fame artifacts on exhibit in Springfield, Ill.

The Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals have forged more than 100 years of history as rivals on the diamond – much of it preserved at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. This year, a city at the epicenter of the rivalry – Springfield, Ill. – is bringing fans of both teams

together through an exhibit at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Cubs vs. Cardinals: The Rivalry treats visitors to rare artifacts, photographs and baseball cards from the celebrated histories of the two teams. It also features artifacts on loan from both franchises and the Hall of Fame. Additionally, visitors can interact with the exhibit by sharing their own Cards-Cubs memories, answering trivia questions and playing a home run derby as their favorite team.

Learn more by visiting alplm.org.

Experience the Museum as a VIP

Fans have the opportunity to explore the Hall of Fame through a special program designed to give Cooperstown visitors a VIP Experience. The Museum has partnered with Cooperstown accommodations to offer this unique package, which features behind-the-scenes experiences at the Museum, including: Hall of Fame Sustaining Membership (\$100 value); exclusive after-hours access to the Museum on Thursday evening; a

STAFF SELECTIONS

Name: John Bobnick

Position: IT Technician

Hall of Fame Experience: 29 years

Hometown: Cooperstown, NY

Favorite Museum Artifacts:

Lou Gehrig's final-year uniform jersey and Cal Ripken's helmet from his 2,131st game.

Memorable Museum Moment:

Phil Rizzuto was here during a Hall of Fame Week-

end just after we had received the "Holy Cow" (located below the Museum stairs going to the second floor). I was assigned to escort him from the Library through the basement to the Museum offices. On the way, I decided that, instead of using the stairs, to use the elevator outside the Museum office doors. When the elevator opened, "Scooter" stepped out and saw the cow. His eyes lit up and he was speechless. His wife, Cora, asked if she could get a picture of him with the cow. It was a priceless moment to see the smile on his face with the "Holy Cow."



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Library archive tour; a Museum collections artifact presentation; and a private late-afternoon reception with light refreshments served.

This special package is a great way to learn more about the Museum and baseball history, whether this is your first or your 50th visit to Cooperstown. The VIP Experience is only available through select Cooperstown Chamber of Commerce accommodations.

Visit baseballhall.org/visit/vip-experience for more information and a list of participating accommodations. Dates for upcoming packages include Sept. 7-8, Oct. 12-13 and Nov. 16-17.

CORRECTION

On page 39 of the spring issue of *Memories and Dreams*, Frank Robinson's rank on the all-time home run chart at the time of his retirement was listed incorrectly. Robinson was fourth all time in home runs at the time of his retirement.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

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OVER THERE ... AND OVER HERE

100 YEARS AGO, BASEBALL AND ITS PLAYERS WERE FOREVER CHANGED BY WORLD WAR I, YET STILL SERVED AS AN INSPIRATION FOR FANS AT HOME.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

Under different circumstances, the conversations probably would have focused on how a young southpaw named Babe Ruth had limited the New York Yankees to three hits in a 10-3 victory.

But these were not normal times.

Baseball, and virtually everything else, had become an afterthought nine days earlier when President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany. So it's not surprising that the 12,000 or so spectators departing the Polo Grounds following the season opener on April 11, 1917, would be talking more about the patriotic performance before the game than the gem tossed

during it by the flamboyant Boston Red Sox pitcher who later would revolutionize the sport with his prodigious appetite for home runs and life.

To honor the young soldiers who soon would be shipping out to fight in World War I, the Yankees conducted a military drill prior to the first pitch of that American League contest. Subbing baseball bats for rifles, the players marched in unison before a drill sergeant commanded them to stop in front of U.S. Army Major General Leonard Wood, whose viewing stand was a box seat near home plate. The ballplayers-turned-soldiers presented arms as the military band played "The Star-Spangled Banner." The fans cheered lustily.

Over the next two years, as "the war to end all wars" raged in Europe,

Local teams would often play military squads during World War I as minor league clubs all but disappeared during that time. A team from the 319th Regiment at Camp Lee (Va.) takes on the Graybers in Pittsburgh in this April 28, 1918, photo.



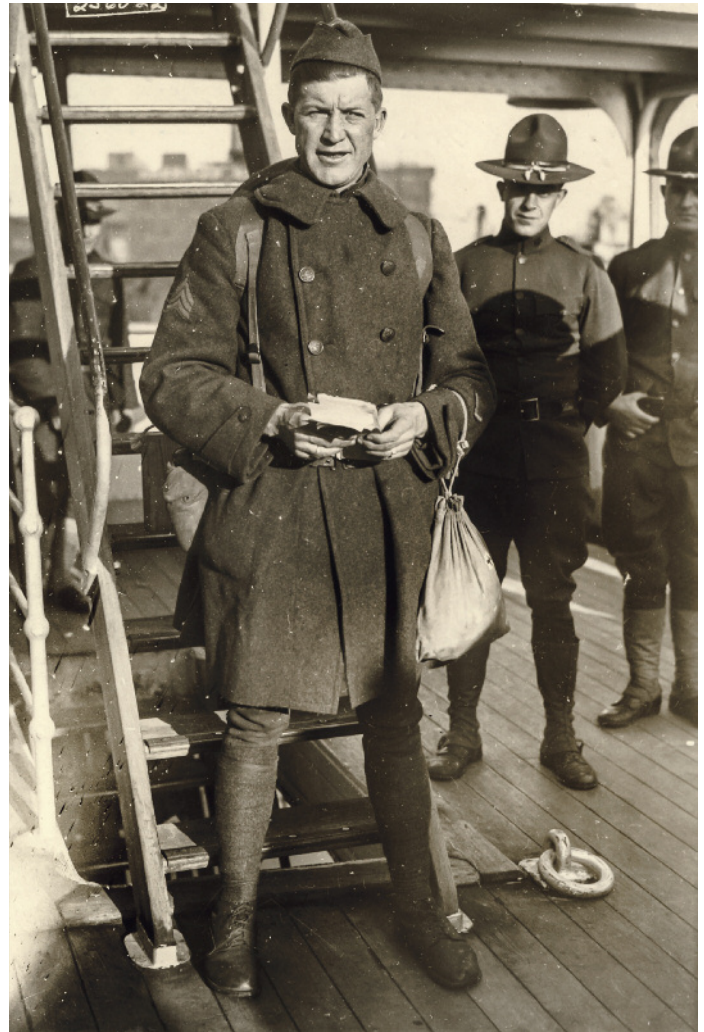
similar drills would be conducted in ballparks across the United States. Baseball would continue to be a part of American life, in ways both uplifting and troubling, as interests vacillated between ballfields and battlefields, baselines and front lines.

“Attitudes of Americans toward baseball was sort of a mixed bag at the time,” said Jim Leeke, author of “From the Dugouts to the Trenches: Baseball During the Great War.” “There was a general feeling that people wanted the game to continue because it was a welcome distraction and could be a morale booster, here among our citizens and abroad among our troops. But as the war progressed, there was growing discontent with ballplayers who weren’t in the service.”

There was a feeling among some, including American League President Ban Johnson, that the war would actually boost the game’s popularity. He told the *Washington Times* that the 1917 season would see record crowds “because the public will be searching for diversion from war news and baseball will be the handy logical diversion.” While baseball did provide a diversion that season, MLB attendance actually dipped by roughly 1.3 million spectators to 5.2 million. And as the war dragged into 1918, attendance continued to plummet, bottoming out at three million, the lowest figure since 1902.

Over time, the quality of play was impacted as more ballplayers enlisted. Most of the minor leagues eventually ceased operations, and toward the end of the shortened 1918 season, when the start of the World Series was pushed up to just after Labor Day, big league clubs lost an average of 15 players per roster to either the armed forces or industries supporting the war effort.

Roughly 250 major leaguers, 500 minor leaguers and several African Americans of pre-Negro Leagues baseball would serve in the military during World War I. Among them would be 27 Hall of Famers, including Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson, Casey Stengel, Oscar Charleston, Branch Rickey and Grover Cleveland Alexander. Eight big leaguers, three Negro Leaguers and 17 minor leaguers would be killed, and numerous others suffered combat injuries and illnesses that would change them profoundly.



Grover Cleveland Alexander was drafted into the Army following the 1917 season and spent most of 1918 as a field sergeant with the 342nd Field Artillery. The future Hall of Famer was exposed to mustard gas and injured when a shell exploded near him, but returned to the big leagues in 1919 and pitched 12 seasons after his military service.





WORLD WAR I VETERANS IN BASEBALL

Twenty-seven men who would go on to earn election to the Baseball Hall of Fame served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War I. They included Army veteran Larry MacPhail, who also fought in World War II. He and Ted Williams (Marines in WWII and the Korean War) are believed to be the only Hall of Famers to serve in two wars.

Though none of the Hall of Famers involved in WWI were killed, two members suffered debilitating injuries. Christy Mathewson inhaled poisonous gas during a training mission while serving as a captain in the Army's Chemical Warfare Service. His health gradually deteriorated and he died of tuberculosis seven years later at age 45. Grover Cleveland Alexander, who had won 94 games in the three seasons before being drafted, served on the front lines in France and was gassed and shelled during his tour of duty.

Hall of Famer

Grover Cleveland Alexander
Happy Chandler
Oscar Charleston
Ty Cobb
Eddie Collins
Jocko Conlan
Red Faber
Warren Giles
Burleigh Grimes
Harry Heilmann
Waite Hoyt
George Kelly
Larry MacPhail
Rabbit Maranville
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Major League Players Who Died While Serving in World War I

Tom Burr
Harry Chapman
Larry Chappell
Harry Glenn
Eddie Grant
Newt Halliday
Ralph Sharman
Bun Troy

Negro League Players Who Died While Serving in World War I

Ted Kimbro
Norman Triplett
Pearl Franklyn Webster

Brave Spirit

On June 1, 1917, Hank Gowdy became the first active MLB player to enlist. Three years earlier, he gained fame as a catcher on the "miracle" Boston Braves team that erased a 15-game deficit in the standings to win the National League pennant and then upset the heavily favored Philadelphia Athletics in the World Series. Gowdy fought battles in France with the 166th Infantry Regiment of the Ohio National Guard.

"Every outfit ought to have someone like Hank," Colonel B.W. Hough said. "The boys idolize him and he gets them stirred up with his baseball stories. He helps 'em forget about the terrors of war."

Gowdy returned from battle and played several more seasons before retiring after a 17-year career that saw him bat .270 with 21 home runs and 321 RBI in 1,050 games.

In the days following Wilson's war declaration, famous songwriter George M. Cohan penned "Over There," a patriotic ditty that would become a big hit during World War I and enjoy a revival during WWII. It included the popular chorus line: "The Yanks are coming." It would be awhile, though, before baseball's Yanks and their brethren actually headed "over there" to fight in Europe. In fact, not many MLB players enlisted in 1917, and a full schedule was played as the quality of play remained high.

Cobb continued his dominance by winning the AL batting title with a .383 average, while also leading the league in hits, doubles, triples, on-base percentage, slugging percentage and stolen bases. But it wouldn't be enough to lead his Detroit Tigers to the top, as the Chicago White Sox won the pennant by nine games on their way to a four-games-to-two defeat of the New York Giants in the World Series.

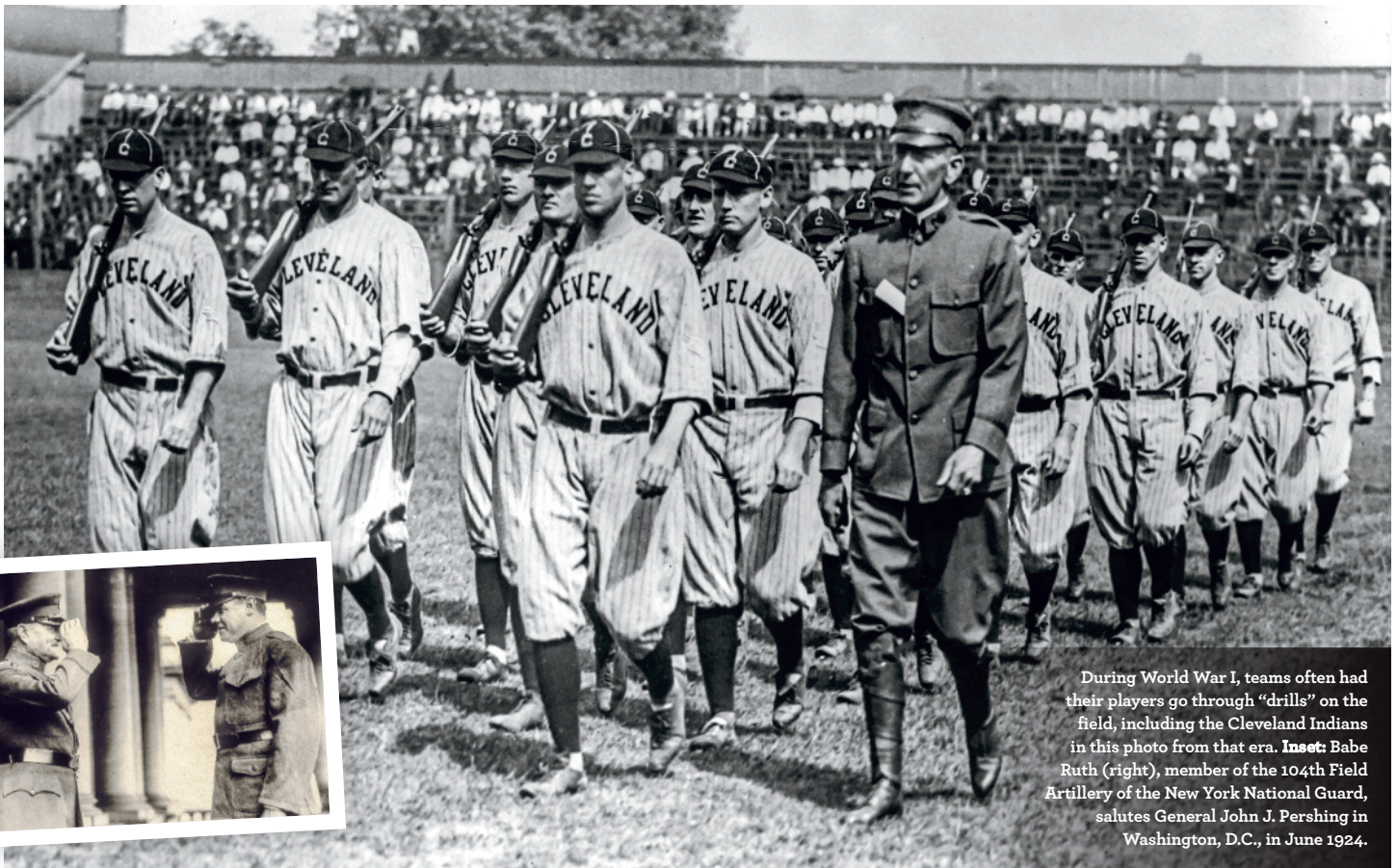
Owners contributed chunks of money to the war effort and teams continued to show their patriotic support by conducting marching drills similar to the Yankees on Opening Day. But baseball wasn't doing enough in the eyes of a skeptical American public that couldn't understand why more ballplayers hadn't joined the cause. It was a sentiment shared by Provost Marshall General Enoch Crowder, the director of the military draft, who just a month into the 1918 season decreed that all draft-eligible men employed in "non-essential" occupations must apply for work directly related to the war – or risk being drafted. Secretary of War Newton D. Baker agreed with the "work or fight" order, which was supposed to go into effect on July 1, but wound up being delayed by two months.

The owners, who had unsuccessfully argued that baseball was essential because it kept spirits high, agreed to reduce their already shortened schedule by another two weeks. Many players decided to enlist, while others opted to work in shipyards or steel mills. Although the latter option was legal and did aid the war effort, many ridiculed it as a way to avoid service. There was a perception that some big leaguers' "new" jobs focused on playing ball for their factory teams.

"Shoeless Joe Jackson was the most heavily criticized; he was a lightning rod," Leeke said. "He went to work at a shipyard in Wilmington, Delaware, two days after saying he was going to join the armed forces. The press was pretty hard on him and others whom they referred to as 'slackers.'"

Ruth also was criticized, though not to the extent of Jackson. After extending his World Series record shutout streak to 29.2 innings while leading the Red Sox to a four-games-to-two victory against the Chicago Cubs in 1918, he accepted a nominal position with a Pennsylvania steel mill.

"Babe and the others who didn't serve would be forgiven and embraced by baseball fans after the war," Leeke said.



During World War I, teams often had their players go through “drills” on the field, including the Cleveland Indians in this photo from that era. **Inset:** Babe Ruth (right), member of the 104th Field Artillery of the New York National Guard, salutes General John J. Pershing in Washington, D.C., in June 1924.



Several years later, Ruth actually became a member of the National Guard, further ingratiating himself to fans.

“It was just a marketing gimmick to encourage more men to enlist,” Leeke said. “They found a uniform for Ruth – no easy task given his size – and had him pose with General John J. Pershing. That photo-op really was the extent of his service.”

Early Fall Classic

The gloom of war hung heavy over the 1918 World Series between the Red Sox and the Cubs, the only one to be played entirely in the month of September. The *Chicago Tribune* described the crowd that witnessed Ruth’s 1-0 shutout victory over Hippo Vaughn in Game 1 at Comiskey Park as “perhaps the quietest on record.” The throng did come to life once, though, during the seventh-inning stretch.

Red Sox third baseman Fred Thomas, who was on furlough from the Navy, snapped to attention with a military salute when he heard the first few chords of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” The other players followed suit, civilian-style, putting their caps over their hearts, and the fans began singing along.

Realizing they had witnessed something special, Cubs officials instructed the band to play the anthem during the next two games. Boston continued the pageantry during the three games at Fenway Park, but played the anthem before the game. A tradition was started, with the song being played before and during holiday (Memorial Day, Fourth of July) and World Series games over the next decade. In subsequent years and wars, it would become a ritual at all American sports events.

Interestingly, the 1918 World Series almost came to be remembered for

something else: A cancellation. The National Commission, the governing body of organized baseball, was enforcing a new rule in which the second-, third- and fourth-place teams would share in Series revenues, siphoning off earnings from the players of the two teams competing in the Fall Classic. The owners hadn’t bothered to tell the players, though. When incensed Cubs and Red Sox players found out, they refused to take the field for Game 5.

Johnson, the AL president, visited both clubhouses and quickly attempted to put their differences into perspective. “Why quibble over a few hundred bucks when Americans were dying in Europe?” was the gist of his plea. Reluctantly, the players agreed, and the game began an hour later than scheduled. A day later, the Red Sox clinched their fourth championship in seven years.

After losing so many players to the war effort and having to shorten their schedule dramatically, the owners were concerned they would have to cancel the 1919 season entirely. But those fears were allayed when an armistice was declared on Nov. 11, 1918.

“Baseball’s significance during the First World War gets overshadowed by the role the game played in World War II, and that’s understandable,” Leeke said. “Fewer ballplayers actually got into combat and it was a shorter war than World War II. But I believe the game still acquitted itself well and played an important role. Logically, the history would have been written about 25 years after it ended. But that was around the same time we were fighting the next war, so World War I and baseball’s role in it kind of got lost.”

Scott Pitoniak is a freelance writer from Penfield, N.Y.

BASEBALL'S “WAR GAMES”

SOLDIERS' TRAINING FOR THE GREAT WAR INCLUDED BASEBALL
DURING PREPARATION FOR OVERSEAS BATTLE.

BY ANTHONY F. GERO

United States President Woodrow Wilson called it “the war to end all wars” – and indeed the conflict that became known as World War I engulfed nearly every segment of our society. In 1917, the United States was no longer able to remain neutral in the battle that began in Europe three years earlier. And so on April 6, Congress declared war against Germany and her allies.

Baseball, therefore, was expected to lend a hand in the fight. And during recreation and bonding exercises at newly constructed military mobilization camps, the National Pastime became one of the tools used by the government to prepare to battle the Central Powers.

Under the direction of Secretary of War Newton Baker, millions of volunteers and draftees were sent to camps to train as soldiers. At these sites, physical training and sports became an integral part of the Army's instructional process. In the words of Baker, sports were “an attempt to occupy the minds of the soldiers and to keep their bodies busy with wholesome, healthful, and attractive things ...”

In order to carry out the War Department's policy – which by February 1918 was in place at more than 32 Army camps – athletic directors were assigned to each camp. Under their direction, the soldiers would use mandated sports in competitive games to help develop “the greatest possible efficiency and power in offensive combat.” In using that training, it was hoped that when America's soldiers engaged the enemy, especially when going “over the top” on the Western Front in France, they could finally break the stalemate there and defeat Germany.

One of the earliest mobilization camps was at “Camp Syracuse” – centered at and around the New York State Fair Grounds in the summer of 1917. Located about 90 miles northwest from the future site of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, the camp eventually hosted more than 16,000 soldiers. During training there, the men formed regimental teams and played at least one local civilian ball club as early as July of that year.

From the *Syracuse Journal*: “Foresters to Play Fortieth Infantry Team Saturday:

The Foresters baseball club will line up against the Fortieth Infantry team now stationed at the Fair Grounds at Burns Stadium Saturday, July 14. The lodge team is now playing a good brand of ball and are out for the championship of Central New York. In the soldiers line up are a few players that have played in the Texas League and are out to down the lodge team. Manager Deyulle of the lodge team would like to hear from Bob Fiske of the Moose nine for a three game series to be played in the near future. Arrangements have been made at the Stadium to accommodate a large crowd and there will be extra streetcar service. The game will be called at 3 o'clock. Louis Schleret will officiate.”

Similar reports continued throughout the summer and into 1918 as soldiers from around the country trained for war. The summer and fall of 1918 shows that the games had spread to competitions with the surrounding cities' baseball teams in the Syracuse area.

For example, The *Auburn Citizen*, for Friday, Sept. 27, 1918, reported: “Dugantes Will Meet Syracusans on Sunday Next – But Everything Depends on Weather Man - To Be Final in Series of Three:

If the weather and the Spanish influenza conditions improve over the next week-end the Dunn and McCarthy nine will play that long delayed and final game of the series with the soldier boys from Camp Syracuse Sunday at Lakeside. Up to the resent (sic) time Manager Dugan has received no word that the soldiers would not come and from the present reports the camp is not quarantined.

Cottrell will undoubtedly pitch and either Covey or Weaver will do the pegging for the military outfit. This trio have hooked up in two separate duels and the outcome of the battles have been extremely close.

The fans are anxious to see these two teams in action and will be on hand promptly to witness the duel. Manager Dugan states unless there is a decided change in the weather this will be the curtain call on local baseball.”

By the second year of the United States' involvement in World War I, military baseball and athletics in general had become an integral part of the Army's training programs. That fact can be seen in reporting from



The New York Times dated April 21, 1918, on the 27th Division's training at Spartanburg, S.C., at another major mobilization camp:

"Athletics Helps In War ...

An illustration of the part athletics is taking in the preparation of the country's soldiers for war is furnished in a circular letter written by Harvey W. Cohn, Athletic Director of the Twenty-seventh Division United States Army, in training at Spartanburg, S.C. Cohn is an old-time champion athlete, and before receiving his appointment as Athletic Director, was track coach and trainer at the Indiana University ...

In his letter, Cohn writes:

The Government has been quick to see the great benefit that can be derived from the different athletic sports in the army and navy, with the result that the War Department, through the Commission on Training Camp Athletic Activities, has appointed an Athletic Director in every camp through out the country. At Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S.C., where the 27th Division, under the command of Major Gen. John F. O'Ryan is located, athletics are given a free hand.

Last month an order was issued that every man in the 27th Division,



Top: Members of the 6th Infantry Division's AEF baseball team pose in Europe, likely after the Armistice, circa. 1919. Note the division's shoulder sleeve insignia on the players' caps. Also note the store's front window glass that indicates that the store had been taken over by the YMCA. **Above:** This photo of the 809th Pioneer Infantry's (Colored) league-winning team was taken May 23, 1919, at Savenay, Loire-Inferieure, France. Soldiers from units throughout the U.S. Army participated in baseball before, during and after World War I.

from the private up to and including the Captain, had to compete in five events in which certain marks had to be made ...

Baseball is the major sport at the present time and every company has a team in the Regimental League. A schedule is now in force that when completed will find one of the regiments the division champion ..."

The military's connection to baseball did not stop at America's borders.

PHOTOS COURTESY ANTHONY F. GERCO COLLECTION

A WAR CLUB FOR A WAR HERO

BY TOM SHIEBER

This is the story of two heroes: One a baseball slugger who starred on the ballfield, the other a brave Army private who was killed on the battlefield. Though they never met, the two are forever linked through a battle in France, a walk-off home run and the efforts of a group of young newsboys.

In the summer of 1917, a 15-year-old newsboy named Albert “Scotty” Scott lied about his age to enlist with the 101st Infantry Regiment and fight in World War I. The young man from Brookline, Mass., got his wish, and in July 1918 took part in the Battle of Château-Thierry, some 50 miles northeast of Paris. Armed with a light machine gun and tasked with protecting a pathway in nearby Belleau Wood, Scott reportedly killed 30 German soldiers before a sniper’s shot ended the young man’s life.

Less than four months later, the war ended, and by September 1919, the citizens of Brookline (and other suburbs of Boston) had turned their attention to the exploits of a 24-year-old Red Sox player named Babe Ruth. With the season nearly over, Boston promoted its Sept. 20 doubleheader against the

Chicago White Sox as “Babe Ruth Day.” Just months later, Ruth would be sold to the New York Yankees, but on that late summer day, no one knew it would be his final appearance at Fenway Park wearing a Red Sox uniform.

Ruth was buttoning up an outstanding season. The slugger had clouted home runs at an unheard-of pace and entered the day with 26 round-trippers, one shy of the single-season record set by Ned Williamson in 1884. The Ruthian phenomenon was literally in full swing.



Babe Ruth presents local newsboys the bat he used to hit the game-winning home run on “Babe Ruth Day” at Fenway Park on Sept. 20, 1919.

More than 30,000 fans jammed Fenway Park for these final home games of the season, with some 5,000 people stationed behind ropes in the outfield and a standing-room crowd running 10-deep behind the seats in the sold-out grandstand. The multitude would not be disappointed.

In the first game of the doubleheader, with the contest knotted at 3-3 in the bottom of the ninth, Ruth came to bat against White Sox ace Lefty Williams. Williams tried to sneak a fast one past the Bambino, but as *Boston Globe* sportswriter James C. O’Leary recounted, “‘Babe’ met the ball with his war club fairly, and sent it sailing over the scoreboard to the right of the clock and through a window of a building across Lansdowne Street.”

With one mighty blow, Ruth had won the game and tied Ned Williamson’s home run record.

Moments later, Ruth and his wife, Helen, took part in the between-game festivities honoring the beloved ballplayer. As photographers, motion picture cameramen and players from both clubs looked on, a representative of the Knights of Columbus presented Mrs. Ruth with a traveling bag and handed the Babe six \$100 U.S. Treasury savings certificates.

Ruth then met with a group of youngsters from the Liberty Loan Newsboys’ Association, who planned to erect a monument in Brookline in honor of war hero and fellow newsboy “Scotty.” In order to help the worthy cause, Ruth presented the youths with his game-ending “war club” so that they could auction it off to meet their goal.

Just how much money the bat fetched and where it may now reside are unknown, but on Oct. 28, 1921, after more than two years of fundraising, thousands looked on as a bronze tablet in memory of “Scotty” was dedicated at Brookline Town Hall. Massachusetts Governor Channing H. Cox, famed orator and politician William Jennings Bryan and other dignitaries also attended the proceedings. Today, that plaque can be found at the town hall, behind a memorial dedicated to other sons of Brookline killed in various wars.

Tom Shieber is the senior curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



This picture appears to be the 301st Engineers winning baseball team at Coblenz, Germany, circa. 1919. Note the insignia of the 3rd Army on the players’ caps and, just barely visible, the number of the regiment on the players’ jerseys.

As units of white and segregated black soldiers went overseas to join the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France, they took not only their soldiers’ training but also their competitiveness in baseball with them. Soldiers even played the game when some units were ordered to Italy along with Americans serving in the Jewish Legion in Palestine.

Even soldiers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) played baseball. As early as 1917, Canadian soldiers had played the game at Vimy Ridge in France.

With the Armistice of Nov. 11, 1918, the war ended. Under directives of General John J. Pershing, commander of the AEF, amateur Olympic-style games were created in 1919 wherever American soldiers in France were stationed. One of the main sports in those games was the competition among military baseball teams (please see related story on page 14 of this issue of *Memories and Dreams*).

Meanwhile, with Allied occupation of Germany and with American units being stationed in the Coblenz area with the 3rd Army, baseball leagues were organized, too. Playing for coveted league pennants and honor, American soldiers carried on the traditions of military baseball in the Kaiser’s former homeland.

Following the demobilization of the Armed Forces and the eventual withdrawal of American troops from Germany, baseball in the Armed Forces returned to its pre-war stateside patterns. However, once back in America, military authorities viewed the game as a crucial part of the regular Army soldiers’ physical activity. As the French might say, the “*élan*” of the military spirit, as adapted by the Americans, would be maintained through military baseball in the decade of the 1920s.

By 1919 and 1920, the seeds of baseball planted by soldiers in America and beyond its shores during the war years were well established – and they would continue to flourish well into the 21st century. 📖

Anthony F. Gero is a retired high school and college teacher from Auburn, N.Y., and a Fellow of the non-profit Company of Military Historians. The author would like to thank Colonel William K. Emerson (USA-Retired), Mrs. Margaret Bailey Redmond, Linda Crye-Gero, Roger Sturcke, Don Weber and Joe Lopiccolo for their help over the years on military baseball.



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FROM YOUR



FAMILY

TERROR DURING WARTIME

HALL OF FAMERS SERVED IN THE ELITE GAS & FLAME DIVISION DURING WORLD WAR I.

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

The Great War initiated chemical warfare on a grand scale. It began with tear gas in the summer of 1914, and by 1917, the German, French and British were assailing one another with deadly chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas.

The United States responded by creating the Chemical Warfare Service in the summer of 1918 to combat the gas attacks. The elite corps, commonly called “The Gas & Flame Division,” recruited top athletes to fill its ranks.

“We do not just want good young athletes,” Major General William L. Sibert said. “We are searching for good strong men, endowed with extraordinary capabilities to lead others during gas attacks.”

During the course of World War I, 227 major leaguers served the United States through various branches of the Armed Forces. Among them were several Hall of Famers, including Christy Mathewson, Branch Rickey, George Sisler and Ty Cobb, who each answered the specific call issued by the Chemical Warfare Service.

At least one may have paid the ultimate price as a result.

As the war intensified overseas, Major

League Baseball owners, complying with the wishes of the federal government, reduced the 1918 season from 154 games to 128. But they resisted the draft, arguing that baseball should be considered an “essential industry,” one that buoyed the spirit of democracy, so their players would be exempt from conscription.

Secretary of War Newton D. Baker did not agree. On July 20, he decreed that “players in the draft age must obtain employment calculated to aid in the successful prosecution of the war or shoulder guns and fight.”

As a result, many players sought employment in defense industries stateside, where they were able to continue playing ball safely on company teams. The 38-year-old Mathewson, whose 373 career pitching victories and 2.13 ERA over 17 seasons would make him a member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s inaugural Class of 1936, was too old to be drafted but still felt compelled to join the cause on the front lines. In late August 1918, the skipper of the Cincinnati Reds resigned his post and became Captain Mathewson, shipping to France for training with the new Gas & Flame Division.

Percy Haughton, perhaps best known as Harvard University’s football coach, resigned as president of the Boston Braves in July to join the division as well, and convinced St. Louis

Cardinals president Branch Rickey, 36, to enlist. Rickey was commissioned as a major and put in charge of the division.

Rickey, in turn, recruited St. Louis Browns standout first baseman George Sisler, whom he had managed at the University of Michigan and with the Browns. Sisler, 25, looked up to Rickey as a mentor and was quickly persuaded to join the elite corps. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and assigned to Camp Humphries in Virginia.

Ty Cobb, the Detroit Tigers’ 31-year-old hitting machine, had been granted a deferment since he had a wife and three children, but he refused to remain on the sidelines. He signed up for the Gas & Flame Division, explaining that, “Christy Mathewson and Branch Rickey are in Chemical – they are guys I like and are friends.”

Commissioned a captain, Cobb finished the season with the Tigers, collected his 11th AL batting title with a .382 average, and joined Mathewson, Rickey and Haughton with the 28th Division at the Allied Expeditionary Forces Headquarters in Chaumont, France.

The men of the Gas & Flame Division were charged with advancing across no-man’s land under cover of an artillery barrage, spraying liquid flames from tanks strapped to their backs and tossing gas-filled bombs like grenades into enemy trenches. Cobb and his baseball mates served as instructors, conducting realistic readiness drills, one of which sent soldiers into airtight chambers where actual poisonous gas was released.

One day, the drill erupted into chaos. Several men – including Cobb and Mathewson – missed the signal to snap on their masks. Cobb finally managed to get his mask on and groped his way to the door past a tangle of screaming men and thrashing bodies.

“Trying to lead the men out was hopeless,” he said. “It was each one for himself.”

Eight of his comrades died that day, their lungs ravaged by the gas. Eight more were crippled for several days. Cobb felt “Divine Providence” had spared his life, but Mathewson was not as fortunate.

“Ty, I got a good dose of the stuff,” he told Cobb. “I feel terrible.”

Armistice was declared on Nov. 11, 1918, before the division engaged in actual combat with the enemy, and the War Department gave Major League Baseball permission to return to its normal operations in 1919. Rickey resumed his role as president of the Cardinals, managed the team for seven seasons and built it into a champion with his famed farm system. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1967.

Sisler, who had been preparing to deploy when the Armistice was signed, was honorably discharged and returned to the Browns, where he established himself as one of the game's greatest hitters. His 257 hits in 1920 stood as the most in a single season for 84 years. Two years later, he set a consecutive-games hitting streak, reaching safely in 41 games, and batted .420. A lifetime .340 hitter, Sisler was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.

Cobb came back to the U.S. on the first ship out of France, arriving in Hoboken, N.J., on Dec. 17. Still coughing up fluid from the drill gone bad and feeling lousy, he announced his retirement from baseball.

He changed his mind once he started to feel better and the 1919 season approached. Cobb returned to the Tigers, won his 12th and final batting title with a .384 average and played another 10 seasons before officially retiring in 1928 at age 41 with a .366 lifetime average, still the highest all time. He joined Mathewson in the National Baseball Hall of Fame's first class.

Mathewson had written Reds owner Garry Herrmann that he would be returning in time for the 1919 campaign, but Herrmann had not received his letter and hired a replacement. Instead, Mathewson accepted a position with the New York Giants under John McGraw. But the cough that had stricken him after the botched gas-mask drill continued to dog him, forcing him to retire after the 1920 season.

In 1921, doctors diagnosed Mathewson with tuberculosis, a disease that had killed his brother in 1917. He was sent to a tuberculosis sanitarium in the Adirondacks mountain village of Saranac Lake, N.Y., where he was not expected to live more than six weeks.

Mathewson spent two years convalescing and felt strong enough to return to baseball in February 1923 when Emil Fuchs, the new owner of the Boston Braves, named him team president. Physicians cautioned Mathewson not to work too hard, but he did not know any



Christy Mathewson (left) and Ty Cobb served in the Army's elite Gas & Flame Division during World War I and were exposed to chemical gas during a training exercise in 1918.

other way. In spring 1925, he caught a cold he couldn't shake, and his cough returned. He went back to Saranac Lake to recuperate.

On Oct. 7, the first day of the 1925 World Series played between the Pittsburgh Pirates and Washington Senators, Mathewson died at the age of 45. The official cause of death was tuberculosis pneumonia.

The following day, before the second game of the World Series, players from both teams wore black armbands to honor Mathewson. The 44,000 fans at Forbes Field stood while the flag was lowered to half-mast and all sang

"Nearer My God to Thee."

Cobb attended Mathewson's funeral two days later in Lewiston, Pa. The Pennsylvania native was laid to rest in a cemetery next to his alma mater, Bucknell University, where Mathewson had starred for both the football and baseball teams.

"(He) looked peaceful in that coffin," Cobb said. "That damned gas got him and nearly got me." ❶

John Rosengren is a freelance writer from Minneapolis, Minn.

HEALING THE WAR'S WOUNDS

FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I, THE 1919 INTER-ALLIED GAMES IN FRANCE FEATURED THE NATIONAL PASTIME.

BY JIM GATES

“**A**rising out of the epochal circumstances of the greatest war of history, the Inter-Allied Games stand out as an event unique in the annals of modern sport. ... Those who love to draw comparisons or have a passion for searching for obscure origins in the dim past may, indeed, find a parallel in the classic game of the Homeric age when the armies of Agamemnon, ‘entrenched’ before the walls of Troy, amused themselves with games and sports not unlike competitions at Pershing Stadium.”

This quote appeared in the opening paragraph of the final report on the Inter-Allied Games of 1919, an “athletic tournament of the allied [sic] nations” held in the wake of World War I that has been largely forgotten and ignored. But at the time, the Games – which included baseball – helped a war-torn world begin to heal.

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns of war fell silent. World War I was over and the nations of Europe began making plans to recover from years of carnage. The Allied armies had achieved victory and were now

engaged in “the Watch on the Rhine.”

Millions of men remained in uniform, but with no enemy to fight, Allied leaders now faced a new problem. As any military officer knows, too much spare time is a recipe for trouble.

As noted by Colonel Wait C. Johnson, Chief Athletic Officer of the American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.), “As the vast majority of the members of the A.E.F. were merely waiting for the time when they might doff their military clothes and return to civil life, it was difficult for them to remain interested in purely military duties after the purpose for which they had been brought into the service had been accomplished. Sham maneuvers against machine gun positions were little able to stir the imagination of men who had faced death in the teeth of the real thing.”

The answer was an extensive program of sports and games. Support came from the highest levels of command, with General John J. Pershing writing, “I am now, therefore, most anxious to encourage in every way possible the athletic side of our trainings, both as a means of keeping the personnel wholesomely and enjoyably occupied during the periods not needed for other military duties and as a means of keeping them in a state of physical and mental fitness which is so necessary to the



General John J. Pershing, who commanded the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) on the Western Front during World War I, gave his support for the Inter-Allied Games, an athletic competition held for the Allied nations following the war.

morale which breeds contentment.”

In so many words, the commanding officer was in support of any activity that would keep his soldiers focused and out of trouble.

The American forces had already initiated a well-developed program of athletic activities, one in which every unit was expected to be involved. This included baseball and basketball, individual sports such as track and field, and military contests that featured marksmanship (including machine gun marksmanship) and grenade throwing, an event won by an American chaplain, giving new meaning to a fire and brimstone sermon.

The YMCA was actively involved in the athletic program, and in late 1918, Elwood Brown, director of athletics for the Paris



Above: The 1919 Inter-Allied Games took place at Paris' Pershing Stadium, a 29,000-seat complex built by Americans specifically for the event and then dedicated to the French people at the Games' conclusion. The Games were based on the Olympic model and featured multiple athletic competitions, including baseball. **Below:** A plane flies over Pershing Stadium during a baseball game. An American team, the Le Mans S.O.S. (a supply unit based in that French city), won the Inter-Allied Games baseball title, defeating a Canadian squad in a four-game series. **Left:** A poster depicting an athlete jumping over the flags of the Allied Nations promoted the Inter-Allied Games, which took place June 22-July 6, 1919. The Games were held just once, as with World War I over, the Summer Olympics returned in 1920 in Antwerp, Belgium.

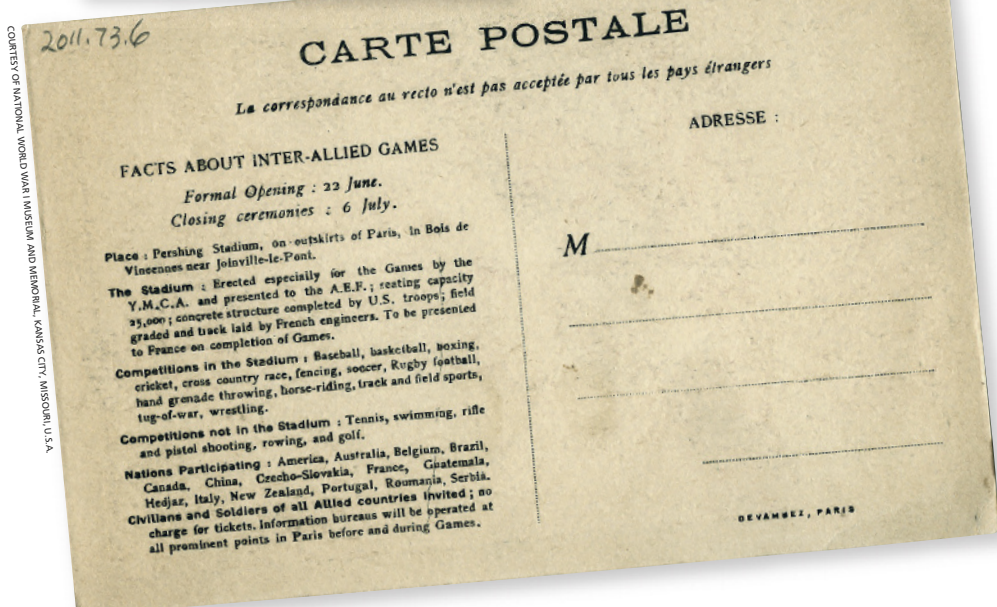


COURTESY OF NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, U.S.A.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, U.S.A.

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COURTESY OF NATIONAL WORLD WAR I MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, U.S.A.



YMCA, proposed a “mass games” for the demobilization period. In the ensuing months, the idea would transition into The Inter-Allied Games of 1919. This event served to make up for the 1916 Olympic Games scheduled for Berlin, which had been cancelled, and would be a precursor for the 1920 Olympiad in Antwerp, Belgium.

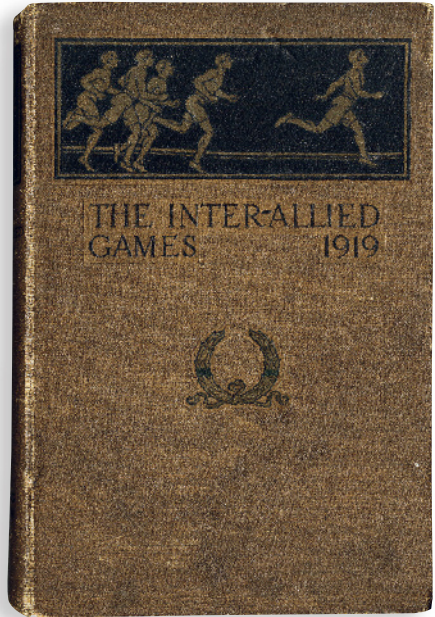
To host the games, the Americans built Pershing Stadium, a full-sized arena near Paris that held about 29,000 fans. All the Allied nations were invited to attend and the games took on a true Olympic feel, starting with a parade of nations on June 22, 1919. As one would expect, there were large contingents from the United



The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's Library contains books describing the 1919 Inter-Allied Games, which featured baseball. The Games served as a way for soldiers in postwar Europe to remain occupied during demobilization efforts.

States, France, Canada, Great Britain and Australia. But most every Allied state was represented, including several equestrians from Hejaz, now part of Saudi Arabia. Research indicates that this was the first time Arab citizens had participated in an international sporting program. (Egypt had previously been represented in the Olympic Games, but by non-Arab nationals residing in Cairo.)

As for baseball, no athletic program could occur without the appearance of the American National Pastime. The A.E.F. had held an extensive pre-games competition with an estimated 55,000 soldiers appearing for 3,700 teams in the preliminary series. The championship belonged to the Le Mans S.O.S., a supply unit based in that French city. Le Mans would represent the U.S. against a team from Canada,



the only other nation able to pull together a baseball squad. The Canadian nine had been assembled with players from multiple units.

Their brief four-game tournament began on June 23 with the Americans taking a one-hit, 5-0 victory. The Canadians picked up a win in game two on June 25, sliding by the Yanks, 2-1. The U.S. then celebrated July 4th with a 10-0 shutout of their northern neighbors, and finished the tournament with a 12-1 victory on July 6, a game that was abbreviated to make way for the closing ceremonies. Outside of their respective national contingents, the baseball games did not garner a great deal of publicity, though reports indicate that French citizens enjoyed watching, even if they didn't seem to understand the intricacies of the sport.

A review of both rosters includes a wide-ranging collection of enlisted men, but only two can be clearly identified as having major league careers. William Marriott of the American side would spend six seasons with the Cubs, Dodgers and Braves. Another Yank, Adam DeBus, appeared in 38 games for Pittsburgh in 1917. Both teams would also enjoy some major league-level umpiring as former player (and umpire at the time) Al Orth, a YMCA volunteer, adjudicated all four games.

The Inter-Allied Games concluded on July 6, when more than 30,000 spectators crowded into Pershing Stadium to witness the namesake hand out trophies and medals. The event ended with the presentation of Pershing Stadium to the people of France by General Pershing, who saluted as the French Tricolor was raised and "La Marseillaise" played in the background.

The Inter-Allied Games had been a success, achieving the stated goal of keeping the men busy while promoting Allied unity. But soon the soldiers returned home and the Olympic Games again took center stage as the premier international sporting event. The 1919 Games would be forgotten.

Remnants, however, remain in archives, including two volumes held by the National Baseball Hall of Fame. And if you travel to France, you can still visit a recreational park near Paris now known as Le Stade Pershing ... America's gift to France still in use today. 🇺🇸

Jim Gates is the Librarian at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



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Dream Come True

Class of 2017 to receive the game's ultimate honor July 30 in Cooperstown.

BY CRAIG MUDER

John Schuerholz looked around the Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery and took a deep breath.

"I can't believe I'm sitting here. ... Here. ... Talking about being elected to the Hall of Fame," said Schuerholz, who will be inducted along with Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines, Iván Rodríguez and Bud Selig as the Class of 2017. "I don't think it will really ever sink in."

Schuerholz came to the Hall of Fame in January for his Orientation Visit, where the newest Hall of Famers learn about Cooperstown and prepare for Induction Weekend – and the 2017 version promises to be another unforgettable experience for fans and Hall of Famers alike.

Induction Weekend will be held July 28-31

in Cooperstown. The *Induction Ceremony*, televised live by MLB Network and featuring speeches from all the members of the Class of 2017, will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 30, at the Clark Sports Center.

Bagwell, Raines and Rodríguez were elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America in January, while Schuerholz and Selig were elected by the Today's Game Era Committee in December.

Hall of Fame Weekend 2017 will also feature the annual *Awards Presentation* on Saturday, July 29, at Doubleday Field.

Claire Smith of ESPN will be honored with the BBWAA's J.G. Taylor Spink Award while former Oakland Athletics broadcaster Bill King will posthumously receive the 2017 Ford C. Frick Award. Saturday, July 29, will also feature the annual *Parade of Legends* immediately

following the *Awards Presentation*. Hall of Fame Weekend concludes on Monday, July 31, with the *Legends of the Game Roundtable* event at Doubleday Field, featuring all five inductees.

Admission to the *Induction Ceremony*, the *Awards Presentation* and the *Parade of Legends* is free and open to the public. *The Legends of the Game Roundtable* is open to participants in the Hall of Fame's Membership Program.

The Hall of Fame now features 317 elected members, and more than 50 Hall of Famers are expected to be in Cooperstown for Hall of Fame Weekend, with a full list of returnees to be announced in early July.

Hall of Fame Weekend begins on Friday, July 28, with the fan-favorite *PLAY Ball with Ozzie Smith*. The Wizard hosts a morning of on-field instruction and interaction with Hall of Fame teammates (to be announced this spring) that begins at 8 a.m. with a private reception in the Hall of Fame Plaque Gallery.

Additional activities for Hall of Fame Weekend include special Museum hours and commemorative Hall of Fame Weekend merchandise available at the Museum Store. For more information on Hall of Fame Weekend, please visit baseballhall.org/hofweekend. 📍

Craig Muder is the director of communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



Left: Iván Rodríguez (left), Tim Raines (center) and Jeff Bagwell share a laugh during a segment at MLB Network in January after being elected to the Hall of Fame by the BBWAA. **Right:** Hall of Fame Chairman Jane Forbes Clark (far left) and Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson (far right) flank Bud Selig and John Schuerholz, who were elected to the Hall of Fame by the Today's Game Era Committee in December. The five-member Class of 2017 will be inducted on Sunday, July 30, in ceremonies at the Clark Sports Center.

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Evers Goes to France

Kept from combat by injury, Johnny Evers still served his country in The Great War.

BY JIM LEEKE

Hank Gowdy, Rabbit Maranville and Johnny Evers combined to lead the Boston Braves to one of baseball's most improbable championships in 1914.

Three years later, the trio had a bigger battle in mind as the United States entered World War I. But while Gowdy and Maranville were able to serve on active duty, Evers was kept sidelined by nerve inflammation in his right arm.

The hero of the Miracle Braves, however, eventually found a way to serve his country and spread the gospel of baseball throughout the world.

Evers, Gowdy and Maranville had helped the 1914 Braves rally from last place in the National League in July to defeat the heavily favored Philadelphia Athletics in the World Series. In 1917, all three were still with Boston – but soon headed in vastly different directions.

Gowdy, a catcher, was the first active major leaguer to enlist, signing up with the Ohio National Guard that June. Maranville, a slick-fielding shortstop who like Evers would one day be inducted into the Hall of Fame, entered the naval reserve following the 1917 season.

By the summer of 1918, Gowdy was in France with the 42nd “Rainbow” Division and Maranville was on board the battleship *USS Pennsylvania*. But second baseman Evers, out of big league baseball after 16 seasons, couldn't enlist because of the pain in his arm.

“I remember how low in spirits Johnny was when he failed to pass the physical examination,” Gowdy said. “But the outstanding thing to me was his determination to serve his country. There was no one more violently patriotic than

Johnny Evers. ‘Hank,’ Johnny told me after I was accepted, ‘I will be over there some way.’”

In June 1918, Evers joined the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic service organization, to become what one newspaper called the “generalissimo of baseball in France.” Similar to the YMCA, Salvation Army and Jewish Welfare Board, the “K. of C.” supported the health and welfare of the U.S. Army in France.

The Knights were busily enrolling 2,000 volunteers, ages 35 to 50, to work overseas. The organization called them all secretaries.

“I was never more enthusiastic about anything in my life,” Evers said of his new assignment as an athletic director. He wore an officer's uniform with K. of C. patches and insignia, moving the *Sporting News* to poetry:

*When Johnny Evers goes to France
And starts to wag his chin.
Old Kaiser Bill will look askance
And beat it to Berlin.*

Forty-six new secretaries marched on July 27 from the Knights' headquarters to a farewell ceremony at the nearby New York Public Library. Baseball fans recognized Evers and cheered.

“We're not going to do any of the heavy slugging ourselves,” he told reporters. “They're just sending us in to bunt. But maybe we'll help advance some of them a base or two at that.”

Evers added that when he reached France, “I hope to get two good nines together and stage a game for the boys well up at the front.”

The contingent sailed three days later, though news of their departure was withheld



Hank Gowdy (right) and Johnny Evers (center rear) chat with sailors in Paris during World War I. Gowdy and Evers both played on the 1914 Boston Braves team that upset the Philadelphia Athletics to win the World Series.

JIM LEEKE COLLECTION

under wartime censorship. Evers traveled with his assistant athletic director, Daniel J. McGrath, a physical trainer and longtime friend from his hometown of Troy, N.Y. – about 80 miles east of Cooperstown. Their transport docked at Liverpool on Aug. 13, and Evers and McGrath spent time in London before traveling to Southampton and crossing to Le Havre, arriving in Paris on Sept. 15. German bombers raided the city that night.

“Well, you can take it from me that it was not very encouraging,” said McGrath, who quickly followed a crowd of Parisians 40 feet underground. Evers simply wrote that “a lot of German bombs missed me.” Amazingly, he bumped into Hank Gowdy the next day, the color sergeant on furlough in Paris following hard fighting at Château-Thierry.

“What, Johnny Evers! You here!” Gowdy exclaimed. “You darned fool! Go back!”

French newspapers had hailed Evers, who starred for the Cubs dynasty of the early 1900s before playing for Boston, as “*Monsieur Jeannot Evers, ancien champion de baseball de Chicago.*”

“All right, if they say so, but what did they want to tack on that *ancien* business for?” said Evers. (Speaking about 50 words of French, he didn’t realize they only meant “former.”)

French General Paul Vidal soon arranged to have Evers teach his *poilus* (French soldiers) how to play the U.S. national pastime. Married to an American, the general loved sports and marveled at how far and accurately his baseball-loving allies could toss hand grenades.

Evers and McGrath reported to Vidal at Besançon in eastern France. They spent two weeks instructing military cadets, who in turn instructed ordinary soldiers.

“Even with my bum throwing arm, I could show them how it is done, and after they watched for a while, they cut loose and began heaving in the regular style,” Evers wrote.

Vidal, a vigorous 64, sometimes donned a mitt for a game of catch.

“We left the young officers playing games every afternoon, with four regular teams and with dozens of others waiting for the chance to challenge them, and with thousands of officers and soldiers learning the game and throwing the ball as part of the daily routine,” Evers wrote.

The war now entered the crucial 47 days of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the immense Allied push that would end the conflict. Evers

threw himself into hard, dangerous duties. He and other K. of C. secretaries worked close to the fighting, sometimes venturing into the front-line trenches. Evers wrote of the experience:

“We are making a tour, riding in big motor vans or in anything going our way, from camp to camp, hospital base to hospital base, and we have discovered that the fellows want to see us, to talk baseball, and to talk about back home, and so every morning I get up early and go visiting the boys in the hospitals, carrying a little bag full of cigarettes and chocolate hung from my shoulders.”



The Knights of Columbus enrolled more than 2,000 volunteers during World War I to support American soldiers overseas. Johnny Evers, who was then at the end of a career that would take him to the Hall of Fame, signed on and helped spread baseball to Europe during the final months of the war.

Rambling about from his Paris headquarters, Evers was often greeted by soldiers he’d known back home. Many hailed from Chicago and remembered the stellar “Tinker to Evers to Chance” double-play combination. Evers met a former Cubs batboy, the son of the club secretary, a younger brother of an old teammate, one fellow who had lived just a few blocks away and another who had ridden downtown with him every day. He chatted with Yankees co-owner Lieutenant Colonel Tillinghast Huston of the Army engineers, sportswriter Lieutenant Grantland Rice of the field artillery and ballplayers he’d known in the major and minor leagues. One big fellow just introduced himself as “the guy that fired a pop bottle at you on the Polo Grounds once.”

Evers occasionally came under fire and once got “a few faint whiffs” of mustard gas. He met Lieutenant Joe Jenkins, a White Sox catcher, in a trench only 200 yards from German lines.

“While we were talking, a shell burst within a short distance of us and neither of us moved,” according to Evers’ newspaper column. “He (Jenkins) just waited until the jarring buzz died out of our ears and then went on talking baseball and asking the news from home.”

Evers offered a more honest account once back in the states.

“Right in front of me a soldier, a young lad, ducked like a scared rabbit into a dugout. I followed just like that rabbit’s brother. I was picking myself up from the bottom of the dugout when Jenkins stuck his head in the doorway and laughed, ‘Ha! Ha! Ha! Johnny! What’re you afraid of! Don’t you know that shell is gone! You never see the one that hits you!’”

The pair solemnly shook hands when the catcher left with his men. “Goodbye, Crab,” Jenkins said, addressing Evers with his nickname. “I’ll see you back in [Chicago] when this is over.”

An army chaplain once sought out Evers to show him a soiled baseball he’d found in the overcoat of a dead doughboy. Moved, Evers said he’d like to have it.

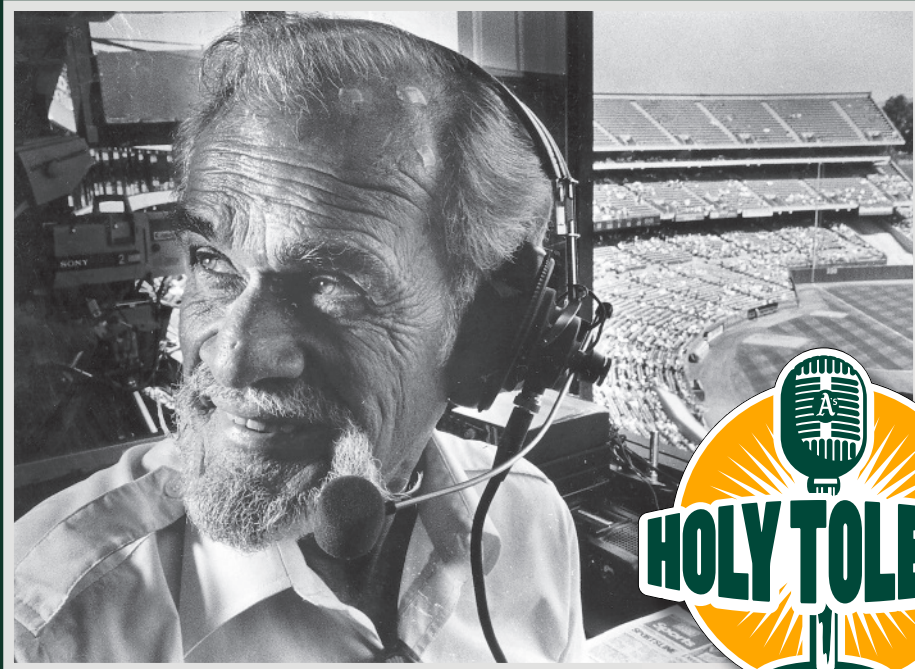
“Not for a million dollars,” the chaplain answered. “I’m too big a fan, and this is too precious to me. It will be more precious to others. If I can find them when we get back, that boy’s baseball belongs to them. If not, then I’ll keep it as one of the biggest prizes of my life.”

Evers was back in Paris for the Armistice on Nov. 11, “the biggest day in the world.” He sailed for home with McGrath the next month, reaching Troy six days before Christmas.

“My experience in France did not last long so far as time is concerned,” Evers wrote, “but there were more things crowded into those three months-and-a-half than ever happened to me before in a whole year.”

He hoped to return to professional ball, but added, “I shall never have any other experiences as interesting as my work in France when I undertook to teach the *Poilus* how to play baseball.”

Jim Leeke is an author and cofounder of the nonprofit Anglo-American Baseball Project (www.aabaseball.org).



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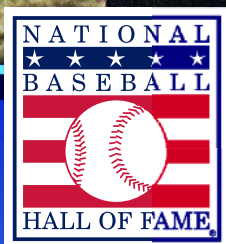


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CLASS OF 2017

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guiding it—and there is no one more deserving of the honor than you.



LITTLE JOE'S BIG CAREER

**HALL OF FAMER JOE MORGAN HAS DEVOTED
HIS LIFE TO THE GAME — ON AND OFF THE FIELD.**

BY HAL BODLEY

Across the choppy waters of San Francisco Bay, the city of Oakland rises out of the fog, almost like a little boy standing in the back of a classroom saying: “Hey, what about me?”

When it comes to cable cars and Tony Bennett lyrics and five-star restaurants and a great tourist destination, Oakland is merely “the other place” to sophisticated San Francisco.

But don't tell that to Joe Morgan.

His roots in Oakland — a city that has also produced Hall of Famers such as Frank Robinson, Rickey Henderson and Willie Stargell — run strong.

It was the starting point for Joe Leonard Morgan — as a player who turned good teams into great teams, as a broadcaster whose candid insight set new standards for analysts, and as vice chairman of the Hall of Fame, where he's cemented a strong liaison between players and Cooperstown.

“Little Joe” is 73 now. When he looks back over all those years, there's no hesitation when he talks about the enormous motivation he

had as a youngster because so many of his role models grew up in Oakland.

“There was so much spirit growing up there,” recalled Morgan, one of the game's greatest second basemen and a 1990 electee to the Hall of Fame. “Watching those older players from Oakland in the big leagues inspired me.

“Remember, back in those days,

baseball was the sport. There wasn't much else. People weren't that concerned with basketball or football. Your parents, your father, everybody pointed you in that direction.”

A similar dynamic prompted athletically inclined young Bay Area African Americans coming of age in the 1950s to look toward professional baseball — as a means of economic advancement (as well as excitement, fun, travel and fame) in an environment that provided few comparable alternatives.

“I think obviously because Jackie Robinson had made such an impact, not only on baseball, but on our country, we looked to baseball,” Morgan said. “My dad played baseball and I was his batboy. Watching Frank Robinson and the others was a tremendous motivation for kids in the area.”

That “area” has produced more than its share of sports stars. Since the Oakland Athletic League was formed in 1919, it has turned out 61 Major League Baseball players, 23 pro basketball players, 47 NFL players and several Olympic gold medalists. But not many have been more successful than Morgan.

Morgan spent 22 seasons as a major league second baseman, mainly with Houston and Cincinnati. He was an All-Star 10 times, won five Gold Glove Awards and was the National



A two-time National League MVP, Joe Morgan has enjoyed success following his playing career — as a broadcaster, businessman and Vice Chairman of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Joe Morgan was one of several Hall of Famers on the two-time World Champion Cincinnati Reds of the 1970s, a team that included (from second to left) manager Sparky Anderson, Johnny Bench and Tony Perez.



League's Most Valuable Player in 1975 and 1976, two of the greatest seasons of his career. A terror on the bases, he finished with 689 steals, and even though he was just 5-foot-7, 160 pounds, he collected 449 doubles and blasted 268 homers. He ended his career with a .271 batting average.

Morgan reached the majors in 1963 with Houston, and you have to wonder what would have happened had he not been traded to Cincinnati on Nov. 29, 1971. To this day, the trade is considered a dynasty-making deal for a team that would become the celebrated Big Red Machine.

It seemed as if Morgan was destined to play for the Reds.

"Most of the guys from Oakland went to the same place – the Cincinnati Reds," Morgan said. "I've never been able to determine exactly why, but there was a pipeline to Cincinnati. Frank Robinson, Curt Flood, Tommy Harper, Vada Pinson, Joe Gaines, Jesse Gonder and some I've forgotten."

Morgan had his No. 8 retired by the Reds on June 6, 1998, and a statue was dedicated in his honor in 2013. He was perhaps the best

player on one of the greatest teams in history.

As former teammate and Hall of Famer Johnny Bench recalled, "You needed a base hit, he got you a base hit. You needed a stolen base, he got you a stolen base. You needed a home run, he got you that, too.

"When Joe was healthy, he was the finest ballplayer I ever played with," Bench added. "He could win ball games in more ways than anybody."

The gritty Reds, under Hall of Fame manager Sparky Anderson, defeated the Boston Red Sox to win the 1975 World Series, arguably the greatest Fall Classic ever played. That Cincinnati team is labeled one of the best ever.

Morgan, though, disagrees.

"The '76 team was the best I ever played on," he said. "Everybody said the '75 team might have been better. That's just not true. I honestly believe '76 was the best team in the history of the game. We swept the Phillies in the NLCS, then swept the Yankees in the World Series.

"When we went to Philly for the playoffs, I told reporters at Veterans Stadium, 'I think you're going to see something special from this

team because everybody is healthy now and nobody is in a slump. This team is running on all cylinders.'

"When you get a group of guys like we were, all confident and on top of our game, it's hard to beat us. I told somebody if there had been another series, we would have swept them, too."

After the 1979 season, the 36-year-old Morgan left the Reds via free agency, helping other contending teams become winners. He played for Houston's NL West championship squad in 1980, had two productive seasons with San Francisco, then blasted 16 homers as the Phillies' "Wheeze Kids" reached the 1983 World Series (a year that saw him reunited with former Reds Pete Rose and Tony Perez). He spent his last big league season playing for the Athletics in 1984.

"It was fitting I played my final season in Oakland," he said. "I guess you can go home again! But deep down inside, I'll always be a Red."

He then embarked on a long broadcasting career, beginning in 1985. Starting in 1990, Morgan teamed with Jon Miller on ESPN's nationally televised *Sunday Night Baseball*. The

popular duo remained together until 2010.

“My years with Jon were wonderful, but we really didn’t get off to a great start,” Morgan admitted. “Jon hadn’t done TV before, just play-by-play radio. I was more into analyzing the game. Winning and losing was life and death for me then, but Jon and I helped each other. He helped me to lighten up and I helped him be a little more serious.”

“After that, Jon and I had a tremendous rapport. We’d give each other space.”

In 1999, after nine years as a Hall of Famer, Morgan was surprised when Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark flew to Oakland, requesting a dinner with him and his wife, Theresa.

“I had no idea what she had in mind other than to just have dinner,” Morgan said. “Halfway through the meal, she said, ‘You know, I’m chairman of the Hall of Fame’s Board of Directors. And I’d like you to be my vice chairman.’”

“To be honest, I was caught off-guard, maybe even stunned a little bit.

“I thought it was an honor to be asked. My wife and I looked at each other, and Theresa thought it was a good idea.”

As a businessman and member of several key boards, Morgan seemed a natural choice for the role.

Clark remembers: “When I asked Joe about serving as Vice Chairman of the Board, we were having dinner in San Francisco. I had told him that night that I should not, would not and could not be chairman without him as vice chairman. I so wanted him to accept the role, but didn’t expect him to.

“I was incredibly excited that he said, ‘Yes.’ We’ve had a wonderful and close working relationship, and I feel that the Hall of Fame Members, and the Museum itself, have benefited greatly from his playing such an important role in our governance.”

Morgan becomes emphatic when he talks about how the Hall of Fame environment has changed since Clark assumed her role.

“The players, the Hall of Famers, have benefited,” he said. “Lou Brock told me when I was inducted, ‘Joe, you’re the hero this year and then you’re forgotten.’ He was right. But when Jane took over, she wanted to make it a player-friendly place – a place where the Hall of Famers could come and enjoy being with each other.

“Now the players have a lot of time when they can enjoy each other.”



Top: Joe Morgan poses with his statue that was unveiled Sept. 7, 2013, at Cincinnati’s Great American Ball Park. **Above:** In 2005, Morgan won the Sports Emmy Award for “Outstanding Sports Personality – Sports Event Analyst” for his work at ESPN.

Jeff Idelson, Hall of Fame President, said, “Joe obviously has a deep connection to the game as a player and as a broadcaster. As vice chairman, he also brings a business sense – a sense of being able to analyze complex situations.

“And he’s incredibly effective in his connection with the players, his business head and his great sense of calmly analyzing situations to help strategize how the institution moves forward. Not a week goes by when we do not speak. I never hesitate to pick up the phone

because whatever issue might be arising, he’ll have great insight into it. He also cares greatly and deeply about all the Hall of Famers.”

After his ESPN career ended, Morgan returned to Cincinnati, where he has served as senior advisor to Reds CEO Robert Castellini and President Walt Jocketty.

Morgan lives with Theresa, his wife of 28 years, on the grounds of Blackhawk Country Club in Danville, Calif., not far from Oakland. They have twin daughters, while Joe has two older daughters from his first marriage.

This is obviously a different era for baseball and the Hall of Fame. The question of players linked to steroids is raised yearly – before and after each BBWAA election.

Morgan refuses to get drawn into that debate, but is outspoken on another subject.

“One of the things that bothers me is I hear reporters say they would like to take the words ‘integrity’ and ‘character’ out of the criteria for a Hall of Famer,” Morgan said. “That’s a joke. All these other people who are in the Hall have had to stand that test, why change it now?”

Hal Bodley, dean of American baseball writers, is correspondent emeritus for MLB.com. He has been covering Major League Baseball since 1958 and was a USA TODAY baseball editor and columnist for 25 years.

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1

The Houston Astros' **Jeff Bagwell** is the 50th player to be inducted into the Hall after spending his entire career with just one team. He joins teammate Craig Biggio (the 49th player on this list) as the second player to have an Astros cap on his Hall of Fame plaque. Bagwell finished in the top 10 in NL MVP voting six times and was the winner in 1994, the same season that the AL MVP was fellow HOFer Frank Thomas, who like Bagwell was born on May 27, 1968. In his career against Hall of Famers Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Greg Maddux, Bagwell hit .310 (70-for-226) with 12 homers and 36 RBI.

Only 32 modern-era players have ever stolen 70-plus bases in a season – and only 13 did it more than once. No one did it more than HOFer Rickey

Henderson's seven times, but even he couldn't match the consistency of 2017 Hall of Famer **Tim Lincecum**, who had six straight 70-steal seasons (1981-86, the only player ever to reach 70 steals in six straight years). In his career, Lincecum stole 808 bases and was caught only 146 times for a remarkable 84.7 percent success rate – the best mark for any player with at least 400 steals.

3

With the election of **Iván Rodríguez**, 52 players have now been elected in their first year of HOF eligibility, and Pudge joins his hero Johnny Bench as the only catchers on that list. He also joins another catcher, Carlton Fisk, as just the second "Pudge" in the HOF. Rodríguez caught 2,427 games, the most of any catcher (Fisk is second with 2,226), and had the most total bases of any catcher (4,451).

Tim Lincecum is one of only three players with more than 150 homers, 100 triples, 1,300 walks and fewer than 1000 strikeouts. The other two players with those stats are Stan Musial and Lou Gehrig. Lincecum also had four seasons with 50-plus extra-base hits and 70-plus stolen bases. Combined, HOFers Ty Cobb and Rickey Henderson did it four times.

2

NINE to KNOW

THE CLASS OF 2017

BILL CHUCK'S "NINE TO KNOW" LISTS APPEAR IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON WEBSITES THROUGHOUT THE BASEBALL WORLD.

Only three players have ever had seasons in which they scored 140-plus runs and walked 140-plus times. All are now members of the Hall: Babe Ruth did it four times, Ted Williams did it three times and **Jeff Bagwell** accomplished it in 1999, when he scored 143 runs and walked 149 times.

6

Here is the list of all the MLB players who had a season in which they hit 40-plus homers and 30-plus doubles, walked 100-plus times, and stole 30-plus bases: **Jeff Bagwell** in 1997 and **Jeff Bagwell** in 1999.

5

There have been only 43 times when a player has hit 35-plus homers and stolen 25-plus bases in a season. **Jeff Bagwell** did it twice and **Iván Rodríguez** did it once (the only catcher on the list).

7

John Schuerholz was the first general manager to win World Series championships in both leagues. In his nine seasons as the Royals' GM (1982-90), the team won at least 90 games three times, and in 1985, the Royals defeated St. Louis in a classic seven-game World Series. In Oct. 1990, Schuerholz joined the Braves and Atlanta finished 14 of the next 15 seasons atop its division. His 1995 Braves won the franchise's first world championship since 1957, when the team was in Milwaukee.

From Sept. 1992 to Jan. 2015, **Allan H. "Bud" Selig** served as baseball's Commissioner. During those 22 years (only baseball's first commissioner, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, served longer: 1920-44), Selig oversaw baseball's realignment into three divisions for each league, the introduction of interleague play, the addition of the wild card, an expanded three-tiered playoff system, the introduction of replay review of calls, the creation of MLB Advanced Media and numerous other advancements resulting in growth for the sport. Selig is the fifth commissioner in the Hall, joining Landis, Happy Chandler, Ford Frick and Bowie Kuhn.

9



Left to right: Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson, Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum, Iván Rodríguez and Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board Jane Forbes Clark enjoy a light moment following the announcement of the BBWAA's Class of 2017.



Latino Legacy

La Vida Baseball and Hall of Fame join forces to tell stories of Latin-American stars.

BY ALEX COFFEY

In January, Iván Rodríguez became the first Puerto Rican catcher to be elected to the Hall of Fame and only the second backstop to earn election in his first year eligible.

Within hours of his election, Rodríguez gave a heartfelt hat-tip to first-ballot Hall of Famer Johnny Bench, naming the former Reds All-Star as a source of inspiration.

But Rodríguez was also inspired by a fellow Puerto Rican who starred behind the plate in the big leagues.

“It all started with Benito (Santiago),” said Clemson Smith Muñiz, a writer and broadcaster versed in Latin American baseball. “Benito inspired Pudge, who inspired Geovany Soto, who inspired Christian Vazquez. I told Pudge he wasn’t giving Benito enough love. Just like

San Pedro de Macoris was a cradle of shortstops, Puerto Rico was a cradle of catchers.”

Executive Editor Muñiz, along with Editor in Chief Adrian Burgos Jr. and Tab Bamford of TeamWorks Media, have recently teamed up with the Baseball Hall of Fame to tell the stories of Latino baseball’s past, present and future through La Vida Baseball, a new website – lavidabaseball.com – which will serve as a community for fans all over the Americas.

“I was an original consultant on the (Hall of Fame’s) *Viva Baseball!* exhibit,” Burgos Jr. said. “[The exhibit] was our first very big swing at it and it achieved a lot. I remember seeing the reactions of Juan Marichal and Orlando Cepeda – they were very proud of



their voices being engaged, told and captured. Being able to connect the history of Latinos who came to Cooperstown and be able to help them tell their stories in a way that stories today resonate, along with the stories of the past – that is part of what’s been missing.”

In what Muñiz calls “la circularidad de la vida,” the very same *Viva Baseball!* exhibit Burgos Jr. consulted on at the Hall of Fame is what inspired the creation of La Vida Baseball to begin with.

“I saw the *Viva Baseball!* exhibit and absolutely loved the approach that it took,” Bamford said. “I reached out to the Hall about

really joining forces to jump into a huge hole in the media landscape: The growing impact that Latinos have on the game today.”

The Hall of Fame connected Bamford with Burgos Jr., who in turn looped in Muñiz. A couple of years later, they found themselves joining forces with the Hall of Fame as their website launched in March in conjunction with the 2017 World Baseball Classic.

“The La Vida Baseball project gives the Hall of Fame the opportunity to tell the story of Latino baseball and its impact on the game through our collections,” said Sean Gahagan, the Museum’s Vice President of Retail Merchandising and Licensing. “And it also allows us to reach out directly to a Latino audience with stories that will resonate with them.”

The relationship will reap benefits for both parties, as the Hall taps into a new audience and fan base, and La Vida chips away at its ultimate goal: Reshaping the way baseball is covered.

“The under-told history of Latino players and the role they have played in the game – that history is not just an individual history,” Bamford said. “Puerto Rico’s is different than Venezuela’s, which is different than the Dominican Republic’s – there is a massive, underserved baseball audience that is incredibly engaged. But there isn’t a voice really speaking to them about the history or the present or the future.

“We are creating a megaphone for the Latino fans and the Latino stories.”



Adrian Burgos Jr. walks through the Baseball Hall of Fame’s *Viva Baseball!* exhibit, which he helped create. Burgos is now at the forefront of La Vida Baseball, a digital media platform that tells the stories of Latino ballplayers.

Alex Coffey is the communications specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



Jeff Bagwell

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Hall of Fame Homer

Tribute to THE SIMPSONS featured at May 26-28 Hall of Fame Classic Weekend.

Twenty-five years after “Homer at the Bat” originally aired as an episode of THE SIMPSONS, baseball fans still talk about Ozzie Smith falling into the Springfield Mystery Spot and Wade Boggs’ argument with one of the Springfield locals.

That beloved episode originally aired on FOX on Feb. 20, 1992. In recognition of its 25th anniversary, fans can celebrate America’s favorite animated family – and Americana at its best – during Hall of Fame Classic Weekend in Cooperstown.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will pay tribute to THE SIMPSONS’ place in American culture by honoring “Homer at the Bat” on Saturday, May 27. Smith and Boggs, who were portrayed in that episode that saw Homer Simpson win the championship softball game for the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant with a walk-off hit-by-pitch, will join in a roundtable discussion from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. outside the Library entrance to the Hall of Fame in Cooper Park. The discussion, free and open to the public, will feature the episode’s executive producers Al Jean and Mike Reiss, director Jim Reardon, executive story editor Jeff Martin and casting director Bonnie Pietila.

During the roundtable, Homer will be “inducted” into the Hall of Fame. This brief ceremony will be followed with the official ribbon-cutting of a SIMPSONS-themed display in the Museum. THE SIMPSONS will



Presented By



also be honored prior to the Hall of Fame Classic legends game taking place that afternoon at historic Doubleday Field.

“In Cooperstown, we salute baseball’s greatest contributors, preserve its vast history and salute the cultural side of the sport. We are honored to pay tribute to the 25th anniversary of

‘Homer at the Bat,’” said Jeff Idelson, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame. “THE SIMPSONS has left an impressive imprint on our culture as the longest-running American sitcom, and ‘Homer at the Bat’ remains as popular



Homer Simpson will be honored prior to the Hall of Fame Classic during a roundtable discussion and ceremony that will see him “inducted” into the Hall of Fame.

Golf with Hall of Famers

As part of Classic Weekend, Hall of Fame members will lead an exclusive golf outing, with a limited number of spots available for golfers, at the beautiful Leatherstocking Golf Course on Otsego Lake. For more info on supporting the Hall of Fame through this outing, please call (607) 547-0310.

today as when the episode aired in 1992.”


In “Homer at the Bat,” Hall of Famers Smith, Boggs and Ken Griffey Jr. were three of the nine “ringers” brought in by Springfield Nuclear Power Plant owner C. Montgomery Burns to ensure his team’s victory. But almost all of the stars were fated not to play, each having suffered a separate and unique misfortune leading up to the game. The voices of the actual players were used in the episode.

The Hall of Fame Classic Home Run Derby follows at noon at Doubleday Field as a lead-in to the ninth annual Hall of Fame Classic, a seven-inning legends game featuring six Hall of Famers and recently retired players representing all 30 major league teams. Hall of Famers Phil Niekro and Ozzie Smith will return to their roles as team managers.

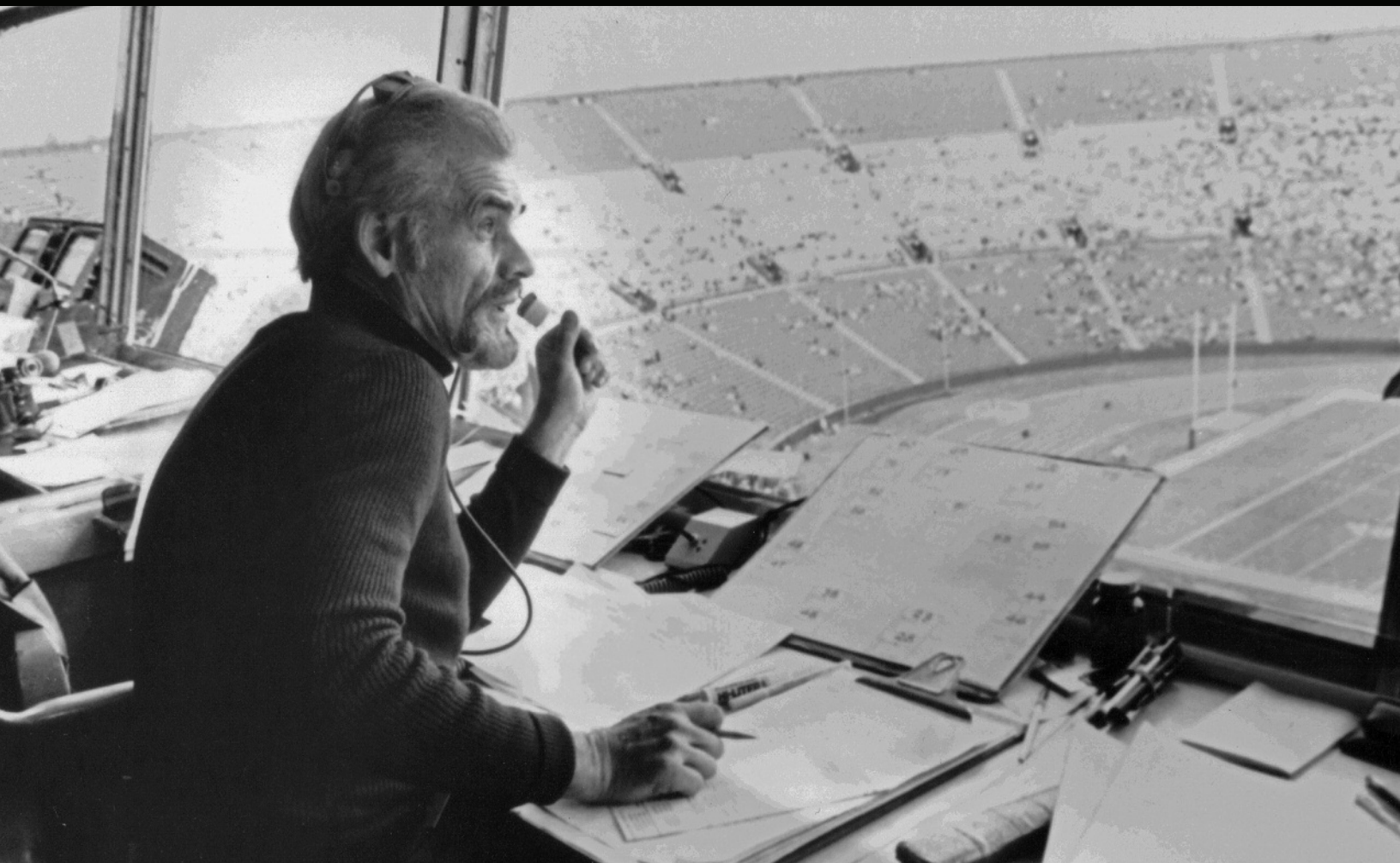
The 2017 Hall of Fame Classic, presented by Ford Motor Company and fueled with assistance from Major League Baseball, highlights a weekend of family entertainment programs designed to celebrate the timeless connection of baseball across generations.

Game tickets, priced at \$12.50 for first and third base seats and \$11 for general admission outfield seats, are on sale now at (877) 726-9028 and baseballhall.org. A maximum of eight tickets are available per transaction.

Following the Classic, the Hall of Fame will reprise its *Night at the Museum* program, now in its fifth season. Hall of Fame legends and former players will greet fans throughout the Museum during the course of the two-hour event that begins at 6 p.m. While *Night at the Museum* is not an autograph session, fans should remember to bring their camera to capture their special family memories.

Tickets for *Night at the Museum* are priced at \$50 for participants in the Museum’s Membership Program and \$100 for non-Members. A ticket to *Night at the Museum* also includes a ticket to the Hall of Fame Classic. For information on Museum Membership, please visit baseballhall.org/join. 

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COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Teaming Up

John Schuerholz “awed” on Orientation Visit to Hall of Fame.

BY BILL FRANCIS

John Schuerholz spent most of his adult life assembling the best teams possible. He’s now a member of baseball’s greatest squad ever.

Schuerholz, who has worked in baseball front offices for more than five decades, was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, along with former Commissioner Bud Selig, by the Today’s Game Era Committee on Dec. 4.

Eight weeks later, on a cold January morning, the longtime executive, along with his wife, Karen, received a tour of the Cooperstown institution from Hall of Fame Vice President of Exhibitions and Collections Erik Strohl. It was part of an Orientation Visit new electees are offered in order to prepare for Induction Weekend.

Schuerholz will be inducted into the Hall of Fame – joining fellow Class of 2017 members Jeff Bagwell, Tim Lincecum, Iván Rodríguez and Selig – on July 30 in Cooperstown.

“I’m sitting in a director’s chair, I’m looking down this grand hallway in Cooperstown in the Hall of Fame, having just been shown where my plaque will be installed, and how do I feel?” said the 76-year-old Schuerholz, dressed casually in black slacks and magenta sweater. “I feel spectacular, I feel awed, I feel as thankful and appreciative of all the people who have helped me in my career and in my life to get to this point – where a group decided that this guy qualifies for the Hall of Fame, this guy ought to be in the Hall of Fame.

“And then when I was advised by (Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board) Jane Forbes Clark on the phone call on December the 4th at 5:13 p.m. in the hotel in Maryland, across the Potomac from Washington, D.C., that I



PHOTOS BY MILD STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

John Schuerholz holds the bat Atlanta’s David Justice used to hit a home run in Game 6 of the 1995 World Series. Justice’s homer was the only run in the Braves’ 1-0 win that gave Atlanta the Fall Classic title.

had been elected into the Hall of Fame, she congratulated me and said, ‘And now, forever, you will spell your name differently.’

“I asked her what she meant by that, and she said at the end of your name, you will write, ‘HOF 2017.’ So that’s what I feel. I’m so proud and so honored and so thrilled. I couldn’t be any more of those three qualities than I am right now.”

As for his Induction speech, Schuerholz says he’s been writing down ideas in his free time.

“I’m now in my 52nd year as a baseball executive, 26 of those years as a general manager, and before that as an assistant general manager and player personal director, always building teams,” he said. “I have a lot of fond memories that I’m going to try to condense into a 10-minute speech. I’ll do the best that I can.”

Schuerholz began his career in big league front offices with the Baltimore Orioles in 1966, then moved to the expansion Kansas City Royals in 1968 and eventually became their farm director. When the Royals promoted him to general manager in 1981, he was, at the time, the youngest person (at age 41) to hold that title in big league history. He soon assembled the team that in 1985 won the Royals’ first World Series title.

“I’ve learned by watching good people, smart people, how they work, how they prepare, how they communicate, how they lead, how they deal with people,” Schuerholz said. “And if you’re in a leadership position, which I have been in most of my life in this game, it’s about people believing in you, knowing that you trust them and you empower them and you honor them, and they’ll work harder and give you better information.

“Therefore, you succeed more. And that’s what happened to me.”

In 1990, Schuerholz joined the Atlanta Braves as their general manager. One year later, the team won its first of 14 consecutive full-season division titles, which included a World Series crown in 1995. In his 26 years as a general manager (1982 to 2007), his teams won 2,348 games, an average of more than 90 per season.

“I was fortunate to have acquired a lot of players who filled the roles we needed them to fill,” Schuerholz said. “I’ve always believed, my philosophy as a general manager, that it is the strength of the total fabric of the talent of the team.

“(It’s) not just the accumulation of individually talented players. It’s those who would blend together best, who would work together best as a group with the manager that we had. That’s the way I tried to put teams together. The total fabric of the team is more important than an accumulation of individual players. And that’s the way I’ve always done it.

“The Fred McGriff trade (the slugging first baseman acquired by the Braves in July 1993) stands out as a trade acquisition, and the signing of Greg Maddux as a free agent (in December 1992) stands out in my mind as one of the top free agent signings ever.”

During his career, Schuerholz constructed 16 division-winning teams, six pennant winners and became the first general manager to build world champions in both the American and National Leagues.



John Schuerholz studies a display case on the Hall of Fame and Museum's second floor during his Orientation Visit in January. As general manager of the Royals and the Braves, Schuerholz added several chapters to the game's history, among them becoming the first GM to win World Series titles in both the American and National Leagues.

Over the past few years, a number of Braves from Schuerholz's era have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, including manager Bobby Cox (2014) and pitchers Tom Glavine (2014), Greg Maddux (2014) and John Smoltz (2015).

"This is an organization filled with very talented people; good, capable people who know what they're doing," said Schuerholz, who currently holds the title of Braves vice chairman. "So you happen to be surrounded by people of that caliber, of that ilk, of that feel, of those capacities and who dedicate themselves to the game of baseball, who become winners and champions and Hall of Famers all.

"And to be able to say that I'm now joining that group of outstanding Braves Hall of Famers, and soon we all believe, I think, that Chipper Jones (who becomes Hall of Fame eligible in 2018) might someday be considered for that kind of recognition as well, I'm honored to be a part of that group."

During his tour of the Museum, Schuerholz

often remarked on aspects of baseball history that intersected with his own long tenure in the sport, whether it be how both he and Babe Ruth were born in Baltimore, how renowned ballpark designer Janet Marie Smith had worked on Atlanta's Turner Field or his relationship with Hank Aaron, a Braves legend who is a member of the team's front office.

While looking through the Museum's *Whole New Ballgame* exhibit, Schuerholz remembered the infamous 1983 Pine Tar Game in which the Royals' George Brett was called out.

"I wrote a letter of protest to American League President Lee MacPhail," he recalled. "George Brett was like a mad bull, a raging bull, when he was called out."

When seeing a Royals cap used by Bo Jackson, Schuerholz said, "We wanted good athletes who could play baseball. He was one of them. He was the strongest player I ever saw in Major League Baseball. He was the fastest player I ever saw in Major League Baseball. If he had stayed in baseball, he'd have a plaque here, too."

Inside the Hank Aaron exhibit *Chasing the Dream*, Schuerholz said, "Great player. Great man. My role model in life. Someone to look up to."

A tray of World Series rings in the *Autumn Glory* exhibit caused Schuerholz to remark, reluctantly, "There should have been a few more after 1995."

Following his Museum tour, Schuerholz, somewhat overwhelmed, told the assembled media: "This trip here, this experience here, and going through the Hall, and going through the antiquities downstairs with the gloves on, and knowing how much I love this business and this industry and this game and this place, this great shrine that celebrates the excellence – the top level of excellence in this game – and to now know that someone believes that I belong in that grouping, I'm so honored and thrilled." 🍎

Bill Francis is a Library Associate at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

THE GAMES MUST GO ON

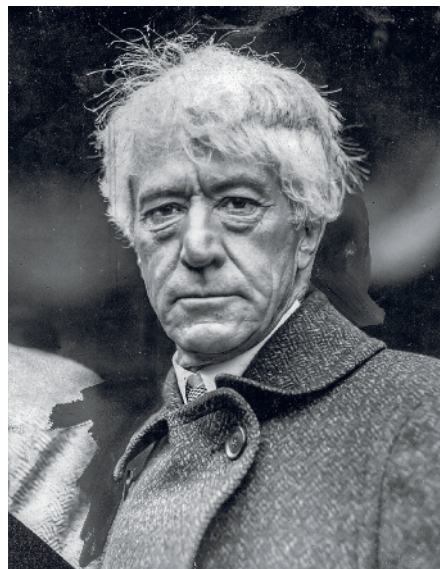
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEN LIGHT LETTER OFFERS INSIGHT ON BASEBALL'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II.

BY ALEX COFFEY

There is a 17-hour time difference between the Solomon Islands and St. Louis, Mo. But that didn't stop Corporal Young Man Kwon and Private First Class Louis A. Repetto, members of the public relations staff for the 298th Infantry Regiment in Guadalcanal, from reporting on the highly anticipated outcome of the 1944 World Series between the St. Louis Cardinals and the St. Louis Browns.

"It was 2:00 a.m. in the morning across the International Date Line," Repetto wrote in a letter to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. "For the next three hours [we] listened, recorded, and then issued *The Warrior's* 'World Series Extra' of the St. Louis Cardinals winning the Series from the St. Louis Browns. By 5:30 a.m., Headquarters jeeps were delivering copies throughout the regiment."

World War II affected the daily lives of most Americans – whether they were stationed on a Southwest Pacific island or selling war bonds at home. But regardless of their involvement, one thing all Americans needed was consistency. And thanks to the foresight of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and



Above: Kenesaw Mountain Landis was baseball's first commissioner, serving in that role for 24 years, a tenure that lasted into World War II. **Opposite page top:** Landis' letter (left) to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was transcribed by the White House staff on a typewriter (right) before being placed on FDR's desk. **Opposite page bottom:** President Roosevelt threw out an Opening Day pitch eight times between 1933 and 1941.

Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis 75 years ago, baseball was able to provide that.

On Jan. 14, 1942, a mere five weeks after Japanese Imperial forces had attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Landis wrote Roosevelt about baseball's future

entering the war: "The time is approaching when, in ordinary conditions, our teams would be heading for Spring training camps. However, inasmuch as these are not ordinary times, I venture to ask what you have in mind as to whether professional baseball should continue to operate."

The handwritten inquiry penned by Landis is preserved at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. – 115 miles away from Cooperstown. The Hall of Fame recently acquired digital images of the letter for research purposes.

"When it comes to understanding history, seeing only the transcripts or excerpts of documents places us all on the outside looking in," Baseball Hall of Fame Curator of History and Research John Odell said of Landis' letter. "Studying real documents (including their digital images) gives us a personal tie to the processes of history."

While Roosevelt was not much of a baseball player himself – referred to as a "notorious scatterarm" in one newspaper, he once hit the lens of a *Washington Post* photographer while trying to throw out a first pitch in 1940 – he was a huge fan of the game. The President had served as manager of Harvard University's baseball team while he was a student there, and used to sneak off to watch the New York Giants play at the Polo Grounds while working as a lawyer in the city.

But personal preferences aside, Roosevelt understood better than anyone that in a tumultuous time of change, the nation needed a steady source of entertainment – a respite from the turmoil of World War II. And what better to serve that role than America's most popular sport.

Despite being thrown in the midst of a worldwide crisis, Roosevelt got back to Landis as quickly as one could by mail, with his "Green Light Letter" dated Jan. 15, 1942. His response to the Commissioner is now preserved in the Hall of Fame's collection:

"I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going. There will be fewer people unemployed and everybody will

BASEBALL

KENESAW M. LANDIS
COMMISSIONER
LESLIE M. O'CONNOR
SECRETARY-TREASURER

333 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO

January 14 1942

Dear Mr. President:

The time is approaching when, in ordinary conditions, our teams would be heading for Spring training camps. However, inasmuch as these are not ordinary times, I venture to ask about you have in mind as to whether professional baseball should continue to operate. Of course my inquiry does not relate at all to individual members of this organization whose status in this emergency, is fixed by law pertaining upon all citizens.

Normally we have, in addition to the sixteen major teams, approximately three hundred and twenty minor teams - members of leagues playing in the United States and Canada. Health and strength to you - and whatever else it takes to do this job.

With great respect
Very truly yours,
Kenesaw M. Landis

W. H. Rorer
Washington, D. C.

BASEBALL

PPF
227

Kenesaw M. Landis
Commissioner
Leslie M. O'Connor
Secretary-Treasurer

333 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago

Jan. 14, 1942

Dear Mr. President

The time is approaching when, in ordinary conditions, our teams would be heading for Spring training camps. However, inasmuch as these are not ordinary times, I venture to ask what you have in mind as to whether professional baseball should continue to operate. Of course my inquiry does not relate at all to individual members of this organization, whose status, in the emergency, is fixed by law operating upon all citizens.

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With great respect

Very truly yours,
(Signed) KENESAW M. LANDIS

The President
Washington,
D. C.



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 15, 1942.

My dear Judge:-

Thank you for yours of January fourteenth. As you will, of course, realize the final decision about the baseball season must rest with you and the Baseball Club owners -- so what I am going to say is solely a personal and not an official point of view.

I honestly feel that it would be best for the country to keep baseball going. There will be fewer people unemployed and everybody will work longer hours and harder than ever before.

And that means that they ought to have a chance for recreation and for taking their minds off their work even more than before.

Baseball provides a recreation which does not last over two hours or two hours and a half, and which can be got for very little cost. And, incidentally, I hope that night games can be extended because it gives an opportunity to the day shift to see a game occasionally.

As to the players themselves, I know you agree with me that individual players who are of active military or naval age should go, without question, into the services. Even if the actual quality of the teams is lowered by the greater use of older players, this will not dampen the popularity of the sport. Of course, if any individual has some particular aptitude in a trade or profession, he ought to serve the Government. That, however, is a matter which I know you can handle with complete justice.

Here is another way of looking at it -- if 300 teams use 5,000 or 6,000 players, these players are a definite recreational asset to at least 20,000,000 of their fellow citizens -- and that in my judgment is thoroughly worthwhile.

With every best wish,

Very sincerely yours,

Hon. Kenesaw M. Landis,
333 North Michigan Avenue,
Chicago,
Illinois.

Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis (top) was concerned about the perception the public would have of professional baseball continuing operations during World War II, leading him to write President Franklin Roosevelt in early 1942. His inquiry prompted Roosevelt's famous "Green Light Letter" (above) that gave Major League Baseball the go-ahead to keep playing. The letter is now preserved in the Library of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

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"Here is another way of looking at it. If 300 teams use 5,000 or 6,000 players, these players are a definite recreational asset to at least 20,000,000 of their fellow citizens -- and that in my judgment is thoroughly worthwhile."

The correspondence between the President and the Commissioner made front-page news nationwide. "Stay in There and Pitch -- F.D.R." proclaimed the *Sporting News*, while *The New York Times* read "Roosevelt Urges Continuation of Baseball During War and More Night Games." Baseball fans, executives and players rejoiced that the National Pastime would continue on despite the oncoming World War.

"The President's letter confirms the conviction held by all baseball men that the national pastime has a definite place in the welfare of our country," American League President Will Harridge said to *The New York Times*. "Particularly during times of stress."

The transition from non-wartime baseball to wartime baseball was not seamless; adjustments were made to accommodate the changing schedules of fans and players alike. Night games became more prevalent during the war, so fans who worked day shifts could still see their favorite teams play. Exhibition games were scheduled to raise money for war bonds. And an estimated 1,400 major league players, umpires, managers and coaches served in the Armed Forces during the war.

But the National Pastime continued on during those long four years, and fulfilled the purpose that President Roosevelt had envisioned.

After the correspondence between Landis and the President had been made public, the Commissioner began receiving letters from servicemen overseas and nationwide, weighing in on the importance of baseball as the nation entered its second World War in 30 years.

"The men in service and the public at home want baseball to continue and want it in the conviction that the statutes operative for the rest of the country will operate upon us," Landis said to the *Herald Tribune*. "I can promise to the men in (the) Army that they won't be let down." 📌

Alex Coffey is the communications specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



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Mystery of the Polo Grounds

Monument to Eddie Grant graced the Giants' home for decades before going missing after the team left for San Francisco.

BY BILL FRANCIS

Big league third baseman Eddie Grant's death took place almost 100 years ago, one of the thousands of United States casualties in World War I. Today, a missing plaque honoring his sacrifice remains among the game's most enduring unsolved mysteries.

Grant, nicknamed "Harvard Eddie" because he was one of the few ballplayers of the time who had attended college, spent 10 years in the majors, making his big league debut with the Cleveland Naps in 1905, then splitting time from 1907-15 with the Philadelphia Phillies, Cincinnati Reds and New York Giants. Steadier with the glove than the bat, the Massachusetts native batted .249 over his career.

But it was his selfless character that distinguished Grant in the game of life. Prior to the 1916 season, the Harvard graduate announced he was retiring from the game in order to devote more time to his law practice, first in Boston and then in New York. And while he remained in baseball, serving as a part-time scout with the Giants, the 34-year-old Grant, past the age when he might be drafted, responded when the United States joined its allies to fight in "the war to end all wars" in April 1917.

"I am going to try to be an officer," he wrote to a friend while attending a military training camp in Plattsburgh, N.Y. "I don't know how much of a success I shall make of it. I had determined from the start to be in this war if it came to us, and if I am not successful



These programs from the dedication ceremony of the Eddie Grant plaque at the Polo Grounds on May 30, 1921, are preserved at the Hall of Fame Library.

as an officer I shall enlist as a private, for I believe there is no greater duty that I owe for being that which I am – an American citizen."

By April 1918, Grant had landed in France as a captain with Company H of the 307th Infantry Regiment in the 77th Division. But just six months later, newspapers across America announced that Grant had died in action on Oct. 5, the first big league ballplayer to make the supreme sacrifice in battle for his country in The Great War. A month after Grant's death, the Armistice was signed ending World War I.

According to reports, Grant was killed by a shell while leading a unit to the aid of the famous "Lost Battalion," a starving and exhausted group of American soldiers surrounded by German military for five days in the wilderness of France's Argonne Forest. Grant was killed during one of the attempts to reach it.

"For four days and four nights his company was part of the command which was trying to get to Whittlesey (Major Charles Whittlesey, who was leading the "Lost Battalion")," wrote Damon Runyon, the 1967 J.G. Taylor Spink Award honoree, who was reporting on the war. "On the morning of the day that relief was effected, Eddie was so worn out he could scarcely move. Some of his brother officers noticed him sitting on a stump and a cup of coffee in front of him. Two or three times, they say, he tried to lift the cup, but he was so weak he couldn't do it. Finally, with a terrific effort, he gulped down the coffee, when the command came to move.

"He stepped off at the head of his company as briskly as ever. On the way through the forest, fighting at every step, Grant came upon stretcher bearers carrying back the major commanding the battalion, who had been wounded. The major called to Grant: 'Take command of the battalion!' Eddie Grant was then one of the few officers left. The major had hardly spoken when a shell came through the trees, dropping two lieutenants in Grant's company. Eddie shouted: 'Everybody down!' – but without hunting cover for himself. He called for more stretcher bearers for the two lieutenants. He was calling and waving his hands when a shell struck him. It was a direct hit."

Upon hearing the news of the death of his former player, Giants manager and future Hall of Famer John McGraw said: "Grant was not a flashy player, but he was one of the gamest I ever knew. He always gave me the best he had and criticism only made him steadier. He never gave his managers any trouble, as he was a chap of fine habits. I could always depend on him. He was a real hero – one of the first to volunteer as a soldier – and in his death I feel a distinct personal loss."

Testimonials soon began appearing in print from witnesses of Grant's heroic end.

"It was my sad fortune to be near where your son was killed only a few days ago, and when I saw him I could hardly believe it true," wrote Lieut. Lloyd S. Nease of the Overseas Service, to Grant's father. "I personally looked after his burial, and had some sod put around his grave

MILF STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

– the best I could do under the circumstances. He is buried in a beautiful place.

“I saw him only five minutes before the attack, and insisted that he go to hospital, as he was suffering from bronchitis and was very hoarse, but he refused, and said, ‘When we get relieved, we’ll go.’ His death was a great loss to the division.”

Grant was initially buried in the Argonne Forest, only a few feet from where he died. He would later be laid to rest in France’s Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery.

Within weeks, reports told of a campaign to honor the fallen ballplayer with a memorial to be located at the Polo Grounds. By February 1919, the Edward L. Grant Memorial Association was formed, led by baseball executives, players, military officers and sportswriters, its purpose to erect a lasting and suitable edifice to the former infielder.

A year-and-a-half later, it was announced that a monument, consisting of an on-the-field granite tablet five-feet-high with a bronze plaque – informing future generations of baseball fans that Grant was killed in the Argonne Forest as well as list the years in which he played on the Phillies, Reds and Giants – would be erected in deep center field at the Polo Grounds.

On May 30, 1921, between games of a Giants-Phillies doubleheader, the monument

“

Text of Eddie Grant Plaque at the Polo Grounds

IN MEMORY OF
CAPT. EDWARD LESLIE GRANT
307TH INFANTRY – 77TH DIVISION
A.E.F

SOLDIER – SCHOLAR – ATHLETE
KILLED IN ACTION
ARGONNE FOREST
OCTOBER 5, 1918

PHILADELPHIA NATIONALS
1907-1908-1909-1910
CINCINNATI REDS
1911-1912-1913
NEW YORK GIANTS
1913-1914-1915

ERECTED BY FRIENDS IN BASEBALL
JOURNALISM AND THE SERVICE

”

was unveiled. With 30,000 fans watching from the stands, a flag was removed by one of Grant’s sisters, Florence Grant Robinson, revealing the monument, its inscription highlighted by the line, “SOLDIER – SCHOLAR – ATHLETE.” Also joining in the tribute was a detachment of British World War I veterans and three companies from nearby Fort Slocum.



Future Hall of Famers Dave Bancroft (left) and Zack Wheat lay a wreath at the plaque of Eddie Grant at the Polo Grounds.

“His sacrifice hit won the game,” said Thomas W. Slocum, vice president of the Harvard Club. After Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis’ tribute, Reverend Stanley Cleveland, chaplain of the 307th Regiment, 77th Division, made the prayer of dedication.

An odd twist to the Grant story took place when the plaque, located in the shadows of Coogan’s Bluff at the Polo Grounds, disappeared after the Giants played their final game in the venerable ballpark prior to calling San Francisco home in 1958. Following a 9-1 loss to the Pirates on Sept. 29, 1957, *The New York Times* reported that soon after the contest’s final out, a number of fans from the announced crowd of 11,606 descended upon the field and began removing home plate, the pitcher’s rubber, two of the bases, the center field wall padding, handfuls of grass and sod, and even telephones.

“The Eddie Grant plaque – dating to 1921, three years after the former Giant infielder died as a hero in World War I – was gradually loosened and slid from its place by three boys of about 15,” *The Times* wrote. “Its prompt recovery by police outside the field was a relief both to the club and to the Society of the 307th Infantry, which plans to remove the entire monument to a suitable new site.”

The original Grant plaque has not been seen since. On Memorial Day 2006, a replica plaque was put up at San Francisco’s AT&T Park.

“At the Hall of Fame, from time to time, we are asked about the location of notorious missing baseball artifacts, those that seem to be lost to history,” said Hall of Fame Vice President of Exhibitions and Collections Erik Strohl. “For me, one of the most interesting is Eddie Grant’s memorial plaque. Not only was it a famous and well-known piece from one of the most storied baseball stadiums in history, it had meaning beyond the game on the field, a sort of nexus of baseball and American culture.

“Because of its connection to World War I and one of the most storied franchises of early baseball history, it holds a different place among the lore of missing baseball treasures. Plus, because of its size, it always seemed unlikely that such a piece could be lost as easily as a baseball. Perhaps someday this piece will resurface and bring to a close one of the more interesting baseball mysteries.”

Bill Francis is a Library Associate at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

LEGENDS in FOCUS

Tony Perez was the first Hall of Famer to greet Iván Rodríguez in person following his election as a member of the Class of 2017.

In this photo taken in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Jan. 24, Perez (left) - a native of Cuba who has called Puerto Rico home for the last half century - celebrates with Rodríguez, who became the fourth Puerto Rican to be elected to the Hall of Fame.

Perez, the popular Big Red Machine-era first baseman who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000, signed a contract with the Reds in 1960 at age 17; 28 years later, Pudge signed with the Rangers as a 16-year old.

JEAN FRUTH/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM







Our Museum in Action

These ongoing projects are just a few of the ways the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's mission is being supported today.

WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

Jackie Robinson cap

Conservation work is underway to preserve the cap Jackie Robinson wore (B-101.72) during the 1955 World Series, when the Brooklyn Dodgers defeated the New York Yankees in seven games. This was the first World Series victory for the "Dem Bums" after seven previous losses, including five to the cross-town "Bombers."

Thank you to Robert Sanzone for the generous donation to fund this conservation work, ensuring that this cap will be preserved for generations to come.

Bob Feller photo collection to be digitally preserved

Thanks to a generous donation by Randy Barthelman, the Museum's collection of Bob Feller photographs will be digitally preserved and added to the PASTIME online collections database at collection.baseballhall.org.

Feller was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1962. He was the first MLB player to enlist in the U.S. Navy following the attack on Pearl

1. This photo of Bob Feller was among several in the Museum's collection that donor Randy Barthelman will help digitally preserve through the Hall of Fame's PASTIME online collections database. **2.** Museum supporter Robert Sanzone recently funded conservation efforts for this Brooklyn Dodgers cap Jackie Robinson wore during the 1955 World Series. **3.** These spikes, worn by Babe Ruth and donated by him to the Hall of Fame, are in need of conservation work.

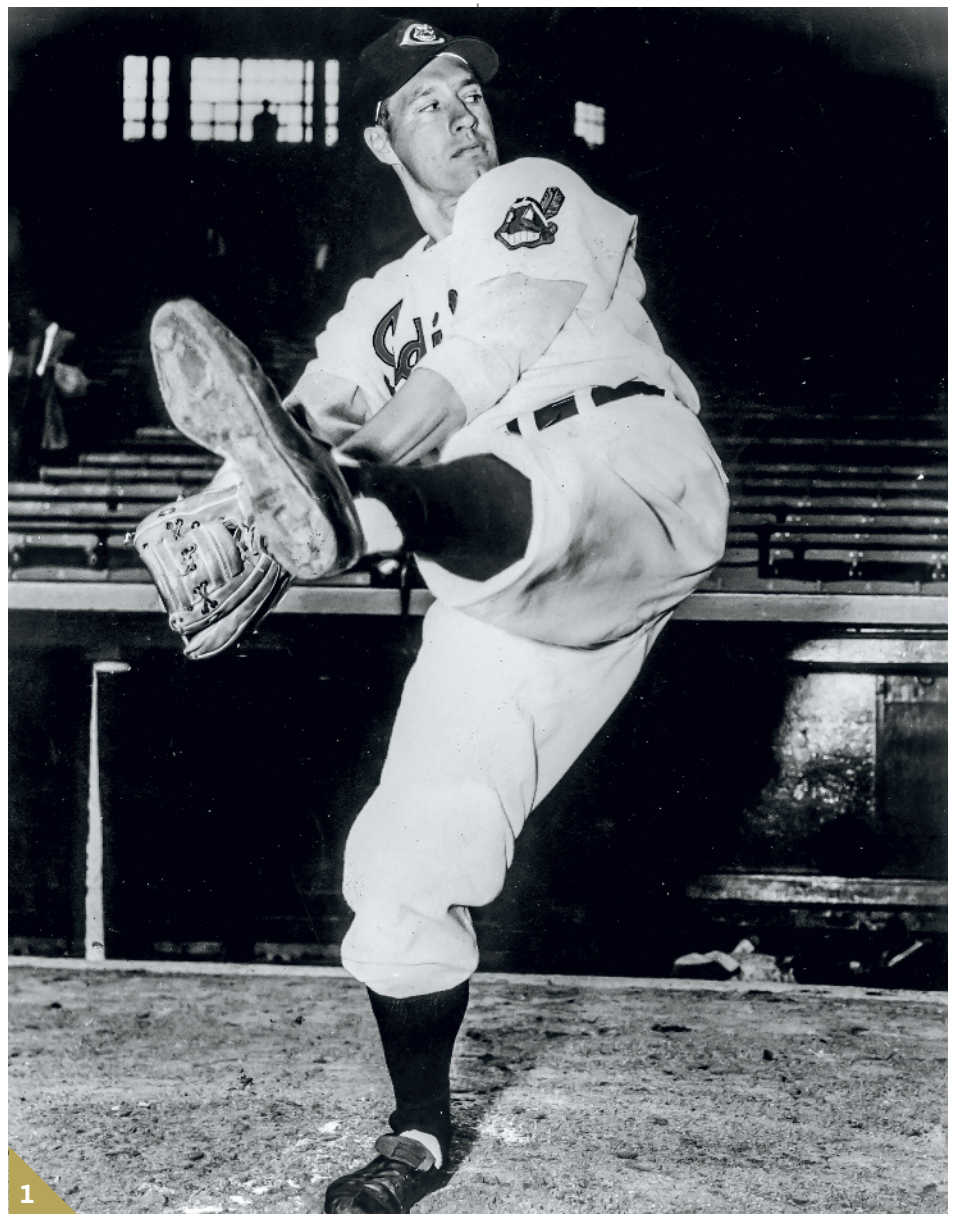
Harbor and – despite giving up four seasons to serve during World War II – he won 266 games during his career, including three no-hitters and 12 one-hitters.

WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

Babe Ruth spikes

These spikes (B-1.39 a and b) were worn by Babe Ruth during his career and later donated to the Museum by Ruth himself. Interestingly, the spikes were the first item accessioned by the Museum in 1939, the same year that Ruth was formally inducted at the first Induction Ceremony.

Estimated conservation cost: \$2,000





2



3


Digitally preserve historic photos of the Hall of Fame Class of 1937

We need your help to continue our work to digitally preserve the Museum's photo collection, which contains more than 250,000 images. Last fall, we launched the Museum's PASTIME online database at baseballhall.org. Photos of the inaugural Class of 1936 were featured during the initial launch of PASTIME.

Now you can help us to preserve and provide access to images of the star-studded class of 1937.

Cost to digitally preserve:

<i>Morgan Bulkeley (4 images)</i>	\$20
<i>Ban Johnson (13 images)</i>	\$65
<i>Nap Lajoie (65 images)</i>	\$425
<i>Connie Mack (409 images)</i>	\$2,255
<i>John McGraw (158 images)</i>	\$910
<i>Tris Speaker (142 images)</i>	\$790
<i>George Wright (5 images)</i>	\$25
<i>Cy Young (126 images)</i>	\$660
<i>Total cost to digitally preserve all 922 images:</i>	<i>\$5,150</i>

For more information – or to make a donation of any amount toward one of these projects – please contact Becky Ashe of our Development Team at (607) 547-0310 or bashe@baseballhall.org. 

HOUSTON STRONG

As Jeff Bagwell's induction approaches, an Astros teammate reflects on what it means to be a Hall of Famer.

BY CRAIG BIGGIO



MICHO STEWART JR./NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Craig Biggio holds his Hall of Fame plaque on the shores of Otsego Lake in Cooperstown following the 2015 Induction Ceremony. This July, his longtime Astros teammate Jeff Bagwell will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The night before Jeff Bagwell was elected to the Hall of Fame, I went to his house and hung out for three or four hours. We have the same agent, so it was natural for us to get together. We got caught up on our lives and our families, and it made the night go quicker for everyone.

The next day, Jeff got the call. I know that feeling. He was truly happy and honored.

To be able to be associated with Jeff – to play together as long as we did in Houston – is incredible. Now we share being Hall of Famers as well.

It was so much fun for me coming back to Hall of Fame Weekend last year. It was everything that every other Hall of Famer said it would be.

The first year, it's great, you're happy – but you've got the stress of making a speech and making sure everything is right for your family and guests. But after your first year, you come back and you realize you're part of the greatest team you'll ever be part of.

We had so much fun hanging out in Cooperstown ... we had a tremendous time just getting to know all the Hall of Famers. Getting to know these guys on a personal level is special. I really enjoy it.

Jeff's going to have that same experience. My advice to him – and to any new Hall of Famer – is to go and have fun and enjoy the people you're there with. Because you didn't get there on your own.

For Jeff and me, it was always about the game and trying to get to the World Series. We just loved playing the game, and the only thing we wanted to do at the end of the day was to reach the World Series. We got there once (in 2005), and it was hard just to get there. But to have that legacy with him – and to be able to share it with all the fans in Houston – is special.

The coolest thing for me is to be able to enjoy being a Hall of Famer with the fans. I live in Houston, I still work for the Astros, and I look at it as all of us – including the fans – did this together. That's the thing I enjoy the most.

I still can't believe I'm a Hall of Famer. You play the game because you love it, not to get to the Hall of Fame. But once you're there, you really appreciate what it means. **11**

A teammate of Jeff Bagwell's for 15 seasons, Craig Biggio was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2015.

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Blue sky and late-winter snow combine to light up the atrium in the Plaque Gallery at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.