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FALL 2020 | VOLUME 42 | NUMBER 5 | 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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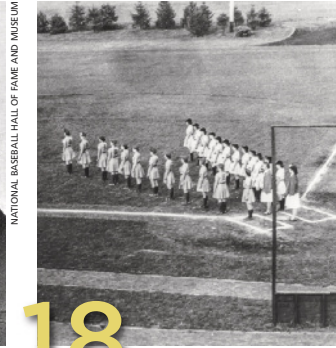
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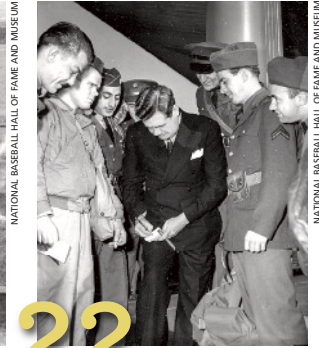
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ON THE COVER

Two days after the start of World War II, Hall of Famer Bob Feller became the first American pro athlete to enlist in the military when he volunteered for the Navy. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the war and the return of many servicemen to the big leagues.

FROM THE PRESIDENT > TIM MEAD



It was difficult to close our doors earlier this spring due to the coronavirus pandemic – because we so love what we do and believe in our mission to preserve baseball’s history and share it with passionate fans of the game.

Established in 1936 and dedicated in 1939, our iconic institution was closed to the public for 102 days prior to June 26, which then became only the second “Opening Day” in our storied history. Like each of Major League Baseball’s 30 teams, all aspects of the Museum’s operation required reevaluation, given the circumstances. Our new reality demanded focused and original thinking in order to allow us to continue to achieve our mission.

Though our lives have been altered in ways previously unimaginable, our staff came together with discipline and focus in creating a comprehensive plan to reopen the

Museum – focused on health and safety measures and in accordance with recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State. The number one priority was to create an environment in which both our staff and guests feel safe and protected.

As we’ve seen within the game – and throughout our country – a number of changes were implemented, including the required usage of face masks and rigorous cleaning and hygiene protocols. A timed entrance program has been instituted to manage capacity restrictions and provide the greatest opportunity for physical distancing. In addition, a pathway of directional markers, an abundance of hand sanitizer stations and stylus pens for use with our interactive exhibits are but a few of the numerous enhancements throughout the Museum.

With all of our exhibit spaces – including

the Plaque Gallery – open again, welcoming visitors back through our doors has provided us a renewed sense of energy and optimism in much the same way that baseball, during times of great challenge, has served as a beacon of light.

Through the Great Depression, two World Wars, Korea, the Vietnam Era, 9/11 and various moments of consequence through the years, baseball has helped guide our country through many of its darkest periods. Baseball has seemingly remained our ray of hope, serving as a distraction and a reminder of better days ahead. Every day since reopening, we have seen that impact here in Cooperstown – and you’ll read more about baseball’s role in the return from World War II in this edition of *Memories and Dreams*.

Even with our doors open, it continues to be imperative that we find ways to maintain timely communication with our supporters. To that end, we have pivoted to provide free programming online, including Virtual Field Trips, Curator Spotlights and Voices of the Game presentations as part of “Safe at Home,” a new digital outreach compilation. We hope you continue to enjoy these offerings, and we remain grateful to the many guests who have lent their time and expertise to this initiative, including Hall of Famer Chipper Jones and ESPN’s Jon Sciambi for their weekly efforts on Instagram Live.

The challenges of 2020 have only strengthened the determination of our staff to fulfill our mission on a daily and proactive basis, while also preparing for the reality of the new normal ahead.

We look forward to that journey and to a continued relationship with you – our Members. The mission of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum cannot be fulfilled without your support. We thank you, and we look forward to greeting you and your family during your next visit here to Cooperstown.

With regards and respect,



Visitors returned to the Hall of Fame June 26 after the Museum was closed to the public for 102 days due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SHORT HOPS

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

Class of 2020 Inductee Exhibit now on display

As the Hall of Fame Class of 2020 looks forward to its formal Induction during Hall of Fame Weekend 2021 in Cooperstown, the stories of the legendary careers of Derek Jeter, Marvin Miller, Ted Simmons and Larry Walker are already being told at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

The Museum's 2020 *Inductee Exhibit* is now open and will remain on display through 2021. The exhibit, which features one display for each 2020 inductee, is located on the Museum's third floor. Some of the artifact highlights contained in the exhibit include:

- The Yankees helmet Derek Jeter wore when he recorded his 3,000th career hit in 2011
- A timeline of Marvin Miller's career as the executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association
- Ted Simmons' 1982 AL championship ring he won as a member of the Brewers
- A Rockies jersey worn by Larry Walker in 1998 when he led the NL with a .363 batting average

Admission to the Museum's *Inductee Exhibit* is included with regular Museum admission.

The Class of 2020 will be inducted – along with any elected members of the Class of 2021 – on July 25 in Cooperstown.

Explore the Museum's education programs

The Baseball Hall of Fame is dedicated to fostering knowledge of the game and its role in our history.

The Museum's Education Department can help facilitate at-home learning through video presentations, fun activities and sharing the Hall's unparalleled collection. We offer K-12 students and teachers programs that provide interactive and meaningful learning experiences that align with national learning standards.

Free printable Hall of Fame activities for kids of all ages are available, including games, coloring projects and reading lists. An assortment of free lesson plans that use baseball to teach math, science, social studies and the arts for students from grades 3-12 are also available.

STAFF SELECTIONS

Name: Jason F. Schiellack

Position: Director of Development and Sponsorship

Hall of Fame Debut: June 21, 2004 (Steele Intern Class of 2002)

Hometown: Hartland, Wis.

Favorite Museum Artifact:

This is a tough question. I LOVE every single Milwaukee Brewers artifact we have in our collection. However, one thing that I enjoy about our collection is how it intersects with all facets of life. One example for me is my faith and baseball. An artifact that articulates that well is the Bible used by Christy Mathewson's Sunday school teacher in our collection.

Memorable Museum Moment:

I have many great experiences and memories from my time at the Museum. However, for me it always comes back to the people. Life is all about relationships – from my intern classmates of 2002, to the staff, Hall of Famers, and all the great Members and donors that I have come to know and call friends. And each time I walk through the doors of the Hall or have a conversation about a moment or legend in baseball history, it stirs up a culmination of all the great memories I have made through baseball. Cooperstown is a very special place and all the little daily moments caring for, reliving and celebrating our shared love of the game remind us of what is really important.



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For more information, please call (607) 547-0349 or email our Education Department at education@baseballhall.org.

Tell us your stories

We love hearing from our readers about your connections to the stories in each issue of *Memories and Dreams*. Email your notes and letters to the Hall of Fame at membership@baseballhall.org.

CORRECTION

In the Induction Celebrations issue of *Memories and Dreams*, APBA was incorrectly grouped with National Pastime and All-Star Baseball as games where the pitcher had no effect. Pitchers in APBA games are graded on a scale from A (best) to D (not so good) and it does have an effect on the game.

Inside The Collection

Ty Cobb's Sweater

In the chillier months of the early 1900s baseball seasons, a cardigan sweater was the outerwear of choice for many ballplayers while trying to stay warm in the dugout.

Although they were part of major league uniforms for almost three decades and sporting goods companies such as Spalding sold them in their catalogs, there is still not a lot known about these baseball sweaters.

This sweater worn by Ty Cobb is one of more than a dozen cardigans in the Hall of Fame's collection. Knit in a gray wool yarn, this cardigan is thick and would have definitely helped keep Cobb warm.

The body of the sweater has no side seams, so it was worked in one piece – until the armholes – in plain knit (also known as a stockinette stitch). Once the shoulder seams were joined, the sleeves were knit from the armhole down the arm to finish in a snug ribbing at the wrist. The front and neck bands were also knit in stockinette and then attached.

This particular style of cardigan features five buttons (one of which has chipped nearly in half) and knit pockets. While the "TIGERS" lettering is cut out of black wool felt and attached to a piece of curved gray wool felt, the Detroit "D" is black felt sewn directly to the knit.

Cobb donated this sweater and his complete Tigers uniform in 1938, and research is ongoing to establish the exact years when he wore this sweater.



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RETURN POLICY

BIG LEAGUERS SHOWED IN 1945 THAT THEIR BASEBALL SKILLS WOULD SURVIVE THEIR TIME AT WAR.

BY PHIL ROGERS

Buddy Lewis was in a hurry, which surprised almost no one. He had always liked traveling fast, and his Washington Senators somewhat unexpectedly found themselves with something to play for in the second half of the 1945 season.

So Lewis – like many players who returned from military service that summer – wasted no time in resuming his baseball career.

Lewis was interested in aviation. He had taken some flying lessons before World War II, which at times worried Clark Griffith, the Senators' owner.

A combat assignment in North Africa awaited Lewis when his orders came through for the Army Air Corps flight school in 1942. Lewis, who famously buzzed Griffith Stadium in Washington before shipping out for the China-Burma-Indian Theater, said later the change in roles was the best thing to happen to him after he was drafted.

Lewis became a decorated pilot of transport planes after being drafted in 1941. He amassed 1,799 flying hours on 392 missions, including more than 600 hours that were classified as combat.

But by 1945, Lewis was on dual missions – to help the United States win the war and to get back to the Senators, for whom his sweet swing from the left side had made him a lineup fixture since he was 19 years old. He moved amazingly fast to return to Washington after Allied troops had finished the job in Burma in early 1945.

Lewis was officially discharged from the Army Air Corps on July 23 and four days later cracked manager Ossie Bluege's lineup for a game against the Red Sox at Fenway Park. The 28-year-old Lewis was in right field, where he had been a regular since relocating from third base in 1940. The Senators were in second place in the American League, only three games behind Detroit despite counting on rookies and journeymen in Lewis' stead. Bluege not only threw Lewis into the lineup but batted him third.

It was exactly the homecoming Lewis dreamed about while he was serving his country. He took a few flights overseas with Browns manager Luke Sewell, who visited troops one offseason.

"Everybody agreed he was the best transport pilot in the CBI theater," Sewell told the *Washington Post*. "He set his big transport plane down on tiny strips that didn't look big enough for a mosquito to land on. And he did it while he was talking baseball to me."

It's historically accurate to view 1946 as the year that Major League Baseball returned to normal following World War II. But the 250 big leaguers who traded in military uniforms for woolen baseball threads that year were preceded by an advance guard the previous summer, impacting both the pennant chase and World Series in 1945.

Germany surrendered in May. The battles continued in the Pacific until the United States bombed two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August. Most of the ballplayers who were away with military units – those in combat and the large number who spent the war playing baseball and helping raise the morale of soldiers – were not discharged in time to get back on the field for the '45 season.

But Hall of Famers Hank Greenberg, Bob Feller, Red Ruffing and Luke Appling joined Lewis in a group of about 20 players who wrapped up their military obligations in time to raise baseball's diluted talent pool.

It was a sign of things to come for fans. They would have to wait a little longer to welcome back Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Stan Musial, Warren Spahn, Bill Dickey and other future Hall of Famers who served in the military, but the return of the first wave of war heroes made the '45 season special in its own right.

It was fairly common for players to trickle back from military service throughout World War II. Four players returned in time to be in uniform on Opening Day 1945: The Cubs' Peanuts Lowrey, the Tigers' Al Benton, the Giants' Van Lingle Mungo and the Braves' Tom Earley – each after missing one or two seasons.

Lowrey, who had hit .292 as a 25-year-old for the Cubs in 1943, spent the following season at military police candidate school in Michigan before receiving a medical discharge late in '44 because of bad knees. They did not stop him from jumping right back into things with a 98-win Cubs team that rode Stan Hack, Phil Cavarretta and Andy Pafko to the NL pennant.

A regular in left field, Lowrey hit .283 and struck out only 27 times while playing 143 games, with Wrigley Field's outfield grass apparently providing a balm for his aching knees.

Benton's return was a similar blessing for the Tigers. And he followed a similar path back as well.

He was invaluable to the Tigers because he had a rubber arm, which served him well as a starter or a reliever. Del Baker, Detroit's manager, said the Tigers wouldn't have won the pennant in 1940 without him.



Left: Bob Feller was one of several major leaguers who returned to the diamond in 1945 after serving their country in World War II. Following his discharge from the Navy, Feller went 5-3 with a 2.50 ERA in nine starts for the Indians in August and September. **Right:** Hank Greenberg was drafted into the Army early in the 1941 season before being discharged with thousands of other soldiers on Dec. 5, 1941. Two days later, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor – and Greenberg quickly re-enlisted in the Army Air Corps, missing all of the 1942, 1943 and 1944 seasons before returning in 1945 to lead his Detroit Tigers to the World Series title.

Greenberg won the AL MVP that season, hitting 41 homers and driving in 150 runs. Benton backed up that performance with consecutive All-Star seasons. He joined the Navy after the 1942 season and served two years, but was discharged at the end of '44 due to migraine headaches.

Benton, then in his early 30s, had spent the two years mostly playing baseball. He reportedly won 39 games for Navy teams and indeed seemed to have learned a few new tricks when he got back to Tiger Stadium (then known as Briggs Stadium).

He started the third game of the season, throwing a four-hit shutout against the Browns, and finished May 5-1 with an 0.47 ERA, helping the Tigers position themselves for Greenberg's triumphant return.

Greenberg served two stints in the Army during World War II. He was included in an early wave of players who were drafted, leaving the Tigers in May 1941, but then was honorably discharged on Dec. 5, two days before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, when Congress prematurely released all men 28-and-over from service. He re-enlisted as a sergeant in February, volunteering for the Army Air Corps, and figured his baseball career was ending.

"We are in trouble and there is only one thing for me to do – return to the service," he told *Sporting News*, in an interview revisited by Gary Bedingfeld's *Baseball in Wartime* website. "This doubtless means I am finished with baseball, and it would be silly for me to say I do not leave

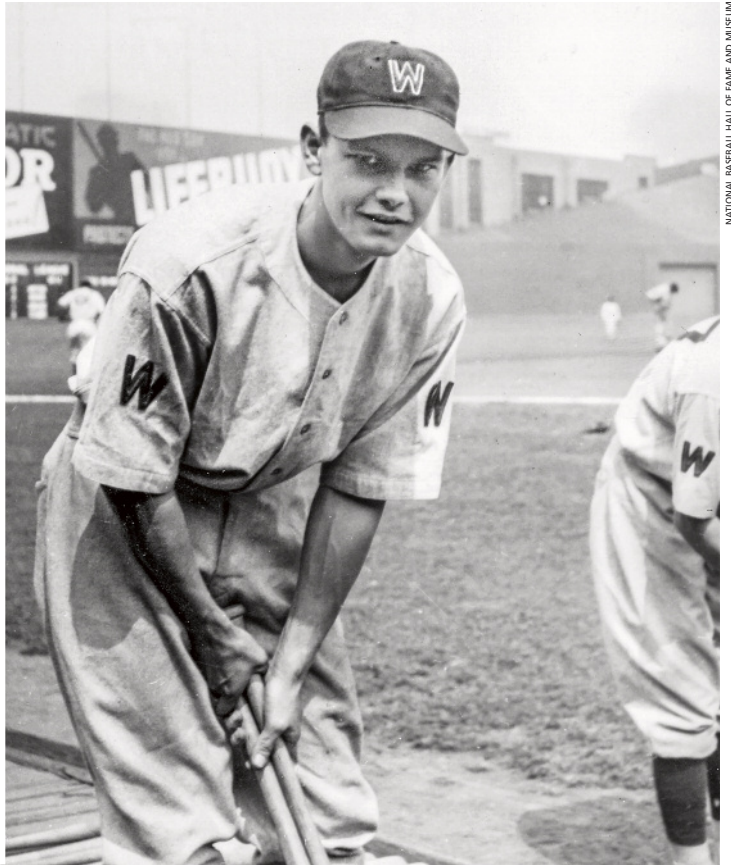
it without a pang. But all of us are confronted with a terrible task – the defense of our country and the fight for our lives."

Greenberg missed the next three seasons. He climbed to the rank of captain and learned to fly B-29 Superfortress bombers, eventually serving in the China-India-Burma Theater, largely in an administrative role. He was recalled to New York to work in morale-boosting ways midway through 1944 and was placed on the military inactive list in June 1945, allowing him to return to the Tigers.

A stream of players began arriving back to major league teams in August and September. Outfielder Charlie Keller rejoined the Yankees on Aug. 19, Feller struck out 12 Tigers in his first game back with the Indians on Aug. 24 and pitcher Hugh Mulcahy was back on the mound for the Phillies on Aug. 26. Appling was back at shortstop for the White Sox on Sept. 2, getting hits in both games of a doubleheader at Comiskey Park.

Mulcahy, who was then 31, had pitched 280 innings and been an All-Star in 1940. Then he had the distinction of becoming the first big leaguer drafted into the military before the United States entered World War II. He was packed to go to Spring Training for the '41 season but instead found himself in the Army, headed to basic training.

"Hugh Mulcahy was a hero in the minds of all ballplayers at that time," longtime player and manager Bobby Bragan said.



Left: Virgil Trucks missed the 1944 season while serving in the Navy, but returned to the Tigers on the final day of the 1945 season. He then pitched two games in the 1945 World Series to help Detroit defeat the Cubs in seven games. **Right:** Buddy Lewis was an All-Star for the Washington Senators who batted .306 during his first six full years in the big leagues (1936-41). Lewis then served more than three years in the Army Air Corps before returning to play during the second half of the 1945 season, helping demonstrate that the hundreds of big leaguers who served in World War II would be able to resume their baseball careers.

Mulcahy wouldn't see combat but still missed four-and-a-half years of his career before being sent home from the Philippines in August 1945. He had lost 35 pounds after battling dysentery and had completely lost his fastball while in service.

Shortstop Cecil Travis, who had been Buddy Lewis' roommate in previous seasons, rejoined Lewis and the Senators on Sept. 8. He had been with Washington for eight seasons before entering the Army and being assigned to the infantry shortly after Pearl Harbor.

Travis fought alongside his fellow Allied soldiers after the 76th Infantry was sent to Europe in late 1944, with the war in its final chapters. He served as a reinforcement for the Battle of the Bulge. Then he joined the 76th in advancing more than 400 miles against German resistance, capturing more than 33,000 prisoners.

Travis received a Bronze Star and four battle stars from his time on the front line. He also suffered a bad case of frostbite that would require surgery. Travis was at his home in Georgia on leave when Japan surrendered and was given his discharge on Sept. 6. It took him only two days to travel to Washington and join the Senators, who were only 1.5 games behind Greenberg's Tigers.

There would be no magical ending for Travis and his teammates, including Lewis. Travis was never as successful as a hitter as he had been before the war – he attributed this to a lost sense of timing, not the frostbite – and the Senators couldn't catch the Tigers. Lewis, however, hit an impressive .333 in 69 games after returning and was named to the AL All-Star team in 1947, showing his baseball skills had survived the war.

It was the last of the soldiers to return in 1945 who perhaps had the most impact. Virgil Trucks, who had gone into the Navy the previous year, had hoped to be back with the Tigers by midseason, applying for a medical discharge due to a knee he had injured on Guam, but wouldn't put on a uniform to pitch until Sept. 30, the last day of the campaign.

Manager Steve O'Neill saw enough from the 28-year-old Trucks to slot him into his World Series rotation behind only Hal Newhouser among starters that included Stubby Overmire and Dizzy Trout. The Cubs defeated Newhouser in the Series opener, but Trucks earned a complete game 4-1 victory in Game 2, with Greenberg smashing a three-run homer in front of a Detroit crowd of 53,636.

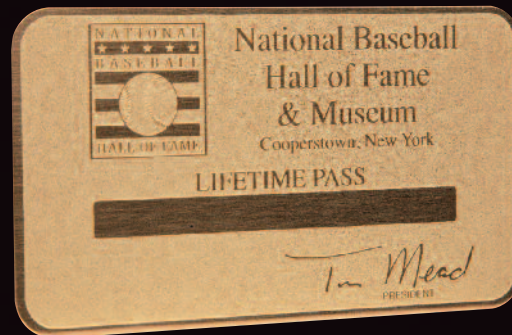
Lowrey hit third for the Cubs in the Series. He had two of the seven hits off Trucks in Game 2 (and nine in the series) and two more in a 9-3 loss in the deciding Game 7. Trucks had a chance to finish off the Cubs in the sixth game but got knocked out in the fifth inning.

It would be the last of four World Series for Greenberg and his most memorable. He went 7-for-23 at the plate, driving in seven runs and scoring seven times. And he did it after two tours of duty for his country.

He had been willing to sacrifice the rest of his career to the war effort, but it turned out he played three seasons after his service – all with a hard-earned sense of pride that had nothing to do with turning on a fastball. 🍎

Phil Rogers is a freelance writer living in Utah who has covered baseball since 1984.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

GI WORLD SERIES OF 1945 FEATURED DIVERSE HEROES OF THE DIAMOND.

BY JOHN ROSENGREN

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 2, 1945, resembled any other at the ballpark: Sunshine splashed across green grass, fans drinking beer, a live radio broadcast, the Stars and Stripes fluttering from the flagpole.

The ballpark, however, was anything but conventional.

This game was played at *Stadion der Hitlerjugend*, the Hitler Youth Stadium in Nuremberg. Here, Adolph Hitler had delivered his incendiary antisemitic speeches at the Nazi rallies.

Now, four months after Germany's surrender and Hitler's death, American troops had painted over the swastikas, laid out a baseball diamond and transformed the Fuhrer's platform for bigotry into a showcase of democratic ideals.

Baseball had swept through Europe that summer with the advance of American troops and the defeat of the Axis powers. Each military branch and its different divisions had their own teams. All told, more than 200,000 American servicemen played baseball across the continent, which culminated in the European Theater of

Operations championship, better known as the GI World Series.

A month before the Detroit Tigers defeated the Chicago Cubs in the Fall Classic back home, the Overseas Invasion Service Expedition (OISE) All-Stars based in France took on the heavily favored "Red Circlers" (so named for the patch on their uniform shoulders) representing the 71st Division of General George Patton's Third Army occupying Germany.

The St. Louis Cardinals' peacetime center fielder, Private First Class Harry "The Hat" Walker (from his habit of adjusting his cap between pitches), had received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his wartime work as a reconnaissance scout. He also served as head of baseball operations in Germany. There, he had assembled a team for the playoffs from other units that included nine major leaguers on his 20-man roster. They included Cincinnati Reds pitcher Ewell Blackwell, who had gone undefeated and thrown a no-hitter in the playoffs leading up to the GI Series, and outfielders Johnny Wyrostek of the Cardinals and Maurice Van Robays of the Pirates.

Walker's nemesis in the opposite dugout for the championship was player/manager Staff Sergeant Sam Nahem, who had pitched in three big league seasons before enlisting

in the fall of 1942. Nahem had spent two years stateside before being sent overseas in late 1944, serving with an anti-aircraft artillery unit.

Born to Syrian immigrants in a Jewish enclave of Brooklyn, Nahem had quit college when Casey Stengel signed him to play in the Dodgers organization, finishing his undergraduate studies and then law school during the offseasons and passing the bar in New York. His eyeglasses bolstered his image as an intellectual, as did the quotes from Shakespeare and Maupassant he dropped in casual conversations.

At 6-foot-1 and 190 pounds (when the average man stood 5-foot-8), Nahem had physical size to match his intellect. But he lacked the resources to assemble a team equal to Walker's, fielding a collection of semi-pro and minor league players, plus one other major leaguer, Russ Bauers, a right-handed pitcher with a 29-29 record for the Pirates from 1936-41. Nahem's best off-field move proved to be adding two Negro Leagues stars at a time when the military's stark racial divisions prevented servicemen like Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby from playing baseball at their U.S. bases.

In the 1930s, Nahem had joined the Communist Party, which advocated for the abolition of Jim Crow laws and the integration of organized baseball. He integrated his OISE team with pitcher Leon Day of the Newark Eagles and the 818th Amphibian Battalion, a segregated unit. Day had driven a "duck," an amphibious vehicle, to deliver supplies on Utah Beach six days after D-Day, and outdueled Satchel Paige in the 1942 Negro Leagues East-West All-Star Game.

Nahem's other key addition was power-hitting outfielder Willard Brown of the Kansas City Monarchs, whom Josh Gibson had nicknamed "Home Run Brown." Brown had entered the U.S. Army in 1944 and done his part in the D-Day invasion by hauling ammunition and guarding prisoners.

The first game of the series played that sunny afternoon in the Nuremberg stadium

drew 50,000 fans – easily the largest baseball crowd in Europe during the war – and exposed the discrepancies between the two teams. Blackwell baffled the OISE batters with his sidearm, buggy whip delivery, striking out nine, while Nahem’s fielders made seven errors behind him as the Red Circlers waltzed to a 9-2 victory.

But the following afternoon, Day – able to mix a biting curveball with 95-mph fastballs using his signature no windup, short-arm delivery – evened the series with an even more dominating performance than Blackwell’s: Striking out one more than “The Whip” (10 total) and allowing one less hit (four). Nahem, playing first base, produced two hits and drove in the winning run in the 2-1 triumph.

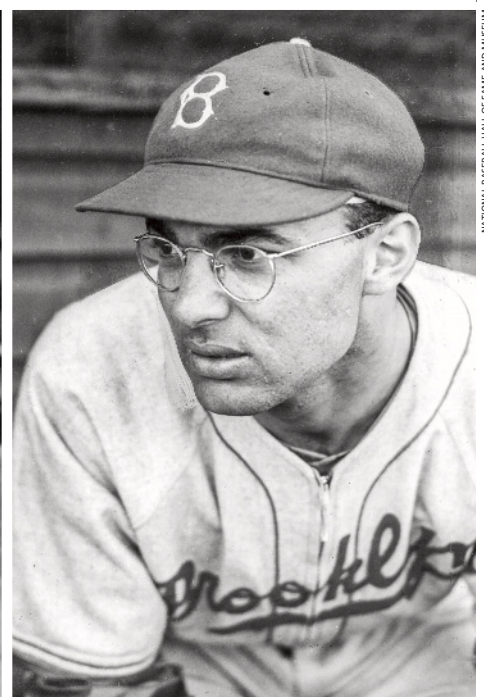
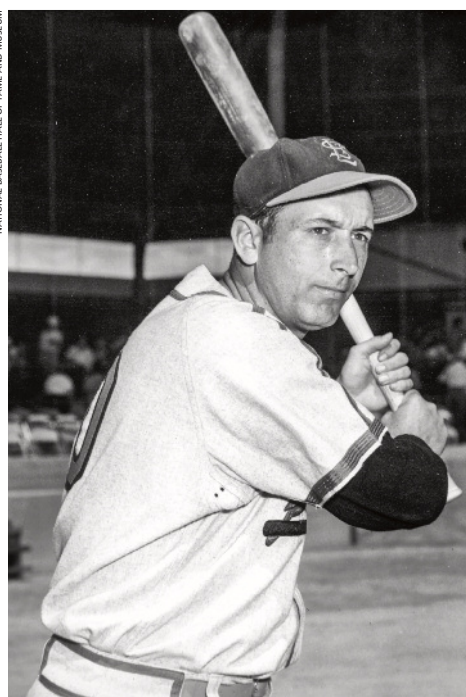
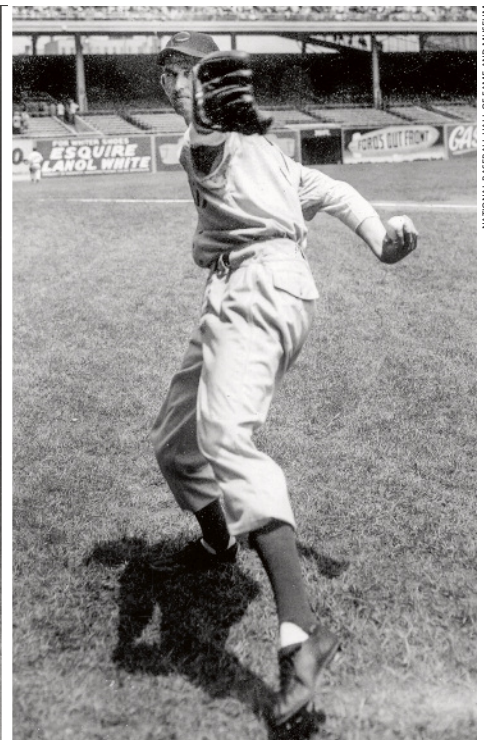
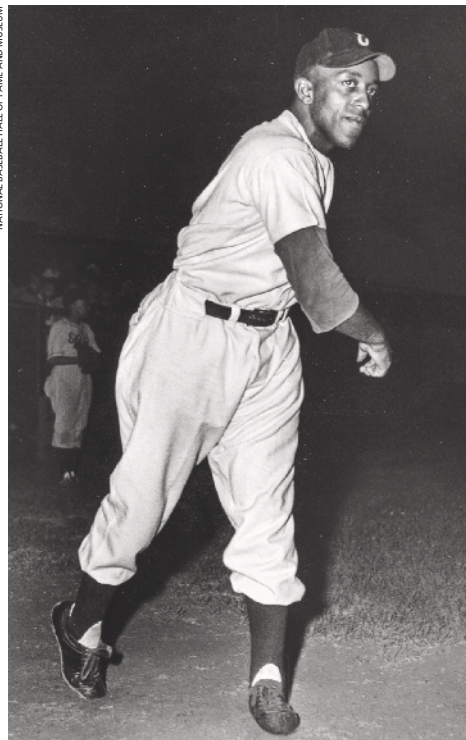
With the Series tied at one apiece, the teams traveled to Reims, France, to play the next two games at Headquarters Command Athletic Field. On Sept. 6, Nahem and Blackwell went at it again. Nahem had learned a slider from Burleigh Grimes, his manager in Montreal in 1939, which he used effectively. He also threw overhand to left-handed batters and sidearm to righties, which worked that day. Nahem allowed four hits, one more than Blackwell, but his team prevailed in the runs column, winning 2-1 and giving the underdogs the Series lead.

In Game 4 the next afternoon, Day could not repeat the magic of his previous start and was beaten, 5-0. Walker hit a two-run home run while Day’s team managed only five singles.

The decisive Game 5, back in Nuremberg on Sept. 8, entertained more than 50,000, an even bigger crowd than had turned out for the first game. Once again, Blackwell and Nahem took the mound for their respective teams. The Red Circlers grabbed an early 1-0 lead, and in the fourth inning with only one out, they loaded the bases. Nahem replaced himself on the mound with Bobby Keane and moved to first base. Keane retired the first two batters he faced to work out of the jam.

With his team still trailing by a run in the seventh, Nahem sent Day in to pinch run. Displaying the aggressive baserunning characteristic of the Negro Leagues, Day stole second, stole third, then scored on a short fly ball to tie the game.

The next inning, “Home Run Brown”



Top left: Leon Day, a Negro Leagues star pitcher for the Newark Eagles, won Game 2 of the 1945 GI World Series and later scored the tying run in Game 5. Day was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1995. **Top right:** Two years before his incredible 1947 season with the Reds – when he finished second in National League MVP voting – Ewell Blackwell pitched three games in the GI World Series. **Bottom left:** Harry Walker, who hit .294 in 1943 as the center fielder for the NL champion St. Louis Cardinals, received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart while serving in World War II. During his time in the military, Walker assembled a team that would play in the 1945 GI World Series. **Bottom right:** Sam Nahem spent parts of four seasons in the big leagues. A stint in the U.S. Army during World War II interrupted his pitching career, but while serving in the military Nahem helped assemble a diverse team – featuring Negro Leagues stars Willard Brown and Leon Day – that would win the GI World Series.

came to bat with a man on. Brown – a free-swinger who still managed to regularly post a .300-plus batting average – was at his best in big games. This one was no exception. He crushed a ball deep to center field. Walker

chased it down, but when the play was over, Brown stood on second base with a double, having driven in what proved to be the decisive run in another 2-1 win and the '45 GI World Series victory.



AP IMAGES

Willard Brown (right) sits with teammate Hank Thompson (left) and St. Louis Browns manager Muddy Ruel during the 1947 season. Brown drove in the winning run in the decisive Game 5 of the 1945 GI World Series played in Nuremberg, Germany.

Brigadier General Charles Thrasher honored the team back in France with a parade and a steak and champagne banquet. Robert Weintraub, who describes the moment in his book “The Victory Season,” notes: “Day and Brown, who would not be allowed to eat with their teammates in many major league towns, celebrated alongside their fellow soldiers.”

After the war, Nahem played on the weekends for a couple of years with the semi-pro Brooklyn Bushwicks and worked as a law clerk before the Phillies summoned him to pitch in 1948, mostly in relief. Nahem then played another season with the Bushwicks and briefly in Puerto Rico before retiring. He found work with a fertilizer plant in California. Disillusioned by Russia, he left the Communist Party in 1957 but remained a social activist and union member for 25 years in his second career.

Brown returned to the Monarchs in 1946

and had one of his best seasons. The St. Louis Browns signed him midway through the 1947 season, and he became the first Black ballplayer to hit a home run in the American League – a pinch-hit, inside-the-parker off Hal Newhouser – but the Browns released him after a month. He played two more seasons with the Monarchs and several for the Santurce Cangrejeros (Crabbers) in the Puerto Rican Winter League, winning its Triple Crown twice. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006.

There’s a story – unconfirmed – that Jackie Robinson tried to convince Day to play with him in Montreal, where they would integrate organized baseball together in 1946, but Day opted instead to return to his old team in Newark. He pitched a no-hitter on Opening Day and helped his team win the Negro Leagues World Series. Despite arm trouble, he pitched several more seasons in the Caribbean

and the minor leagues before having to retire. On March 8, 1995 – six days before his death from complications of diabetes and heart trouble – Day took a call in his hospital bed informing him that he had been elected to the Hall of Fame.

“I’m so happy, I don’t know what to do,” he said. “I never thought it would come.”

Each one of these men had their moments of glory elsewhere, but it was united as teammates during the ’45 GI World Series – and in particular their combined heroics in Game 5 – that two Black ballplayers and a Jewish manager/pitcher/first baseman helped stage an upset not only of their opponents on the field but of the Nuremberg stadium’s legacy in an extraordinary exhibition of equality. 🍎

John Rosengren is a freelance writer from Minneapolis.

2020 INDUCTEES

DEREK JETER

The accolades for Derek Jeter began from the very first days of his big league career and continued virtually non-stop for 20 seasons.

But the legendary shortstop was ultimately judged by five championship rings and a Yankees dynasty he captained. And in the final analysis, the rest seemed like mere details.

Born June 26, 1974, in Pequanock, N.J., and raised in Kalamazoo, Mich., Jeter starred in high school and earned a baseball scholarship from the University of Michigan.

Yet when the Yankees — Jeter's favorite team as a youngster — selected him with the sixth overall pick in the 1992 MLB Draft, the path of the player and the team changed forever.

Jeter played his first game in the big leagues on May 29, 1995, then earned the job as the Yankees' starting shortstop in 1996. Sixth months later, he was the unanimous American League Rookie of the Year after hitting .314. His steady performance at the plate and in the field helped the Yankees win the World Series title for the first time in 18 years.

Over the next 11 seasons, the Yankees never missed the Postseason — winning World Series titles in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Jeter made the first of 14 All-Star Games in 1998, won the first of five Gold Glove Awards in 2004 and was annually among the league leaders in hits and runs scored.

The durable Jeter appeared in at least 150 games every year except one from 2001-10, was named captain of the Yankees in 2003 and claimed his fifth World Series ring in 2009 — after hitting .334 and finishing third in the AL Most Valuable Player voting at the age of 35.

He never played a position other than shortstop in his 2,674 games in the field, reached the 200-hit plateau in eight seasons and was named the 2000 World Series MVP.

Over a record 158 Postseason games — the equivalent of one full extra season — Jeter batted .308 with 111 runs scored, 200 hits, 32 doubles, 20 homers, 61 RBI and 66 walks.

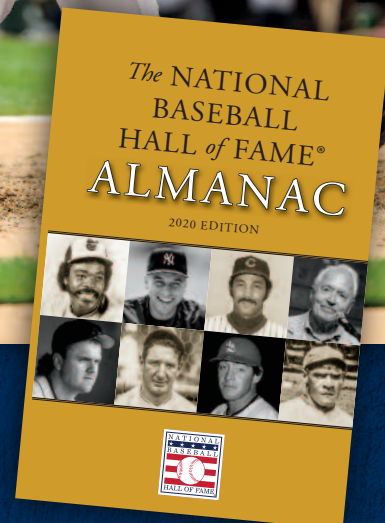
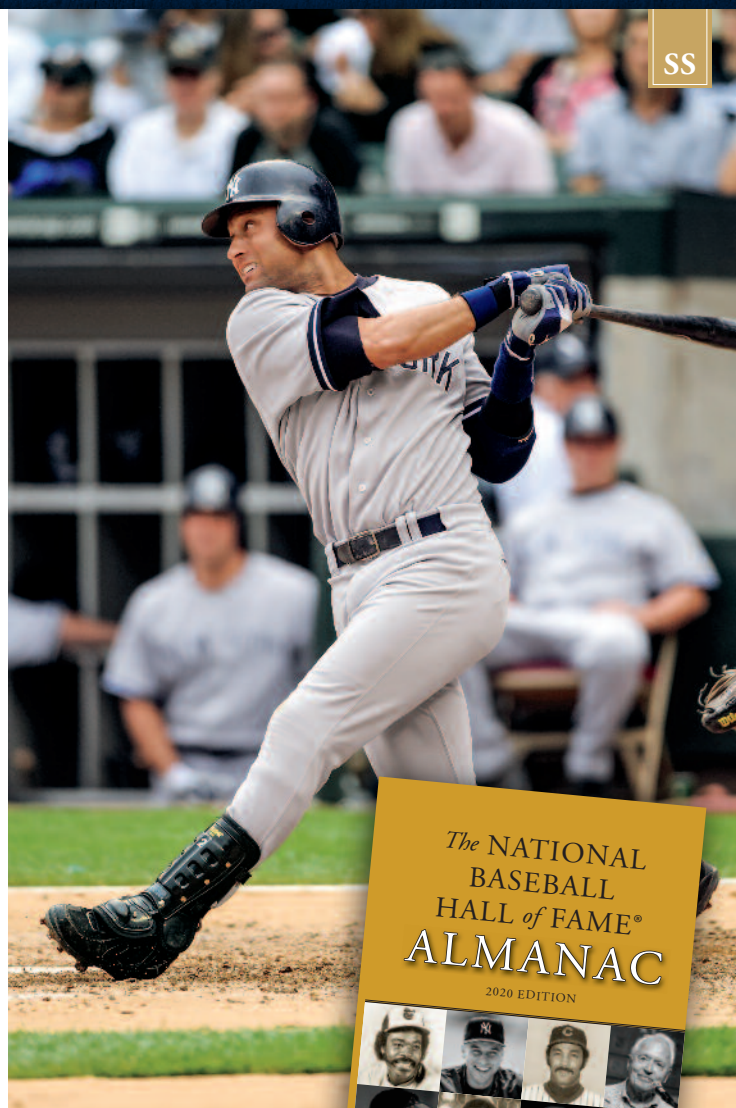
He finished his career with 3,465 hits, 1,923 runs scored and 4,921 total bases.



Elected To The Hall Of Fame: 2020
Born: June 26, 1974, Pequanock, N.J.
Height: 6-3 **Weight:** 195
Batted: Right **Threw:** Right
Debut: May 29, 1995
Final Game: Sept. 28, 2014
Team: New York AL, 1995-2014
Postseason: 5-Time World Series Champion (1996, 1998-2000, 2009); 7 AL Pennants (1996, 1998-2001, 2003, 2009); 16-Time playoff qualifier (1996-2007, 2009-2012)
Awards: 14-Time All-Star (1998-2002, 2004, 2006-12, 2014); A.L. Rookie of the Year (1996); World Series Most Valuable Player (2000)

YEAR	TEAM	LEAGUE	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	BA
1995	NEW YORK	AL	15	48	5	12	4	1	0	7	0	.250
1996	NEW YORK	AL	157	582	104	183	25	6	10	78	14	.314
1997	NEW YORK	AL	159	654	116	190	31	7	10	70	23	.291
1998	NEW YORK	AL	149	626	127	203	25	8	19	84	30	.324
1999	NEW YORK	AL	158	627	134	219	37	9	24	102	19	.349
2000	NEW YORK	AL	148	593	119	201	31	4	15	73	22	.339
2001	NEW YORK	AL	150	614	110	191	35	3	21	74	27	.311
2002	NEW YORK	AL	157	644	124	191	26	0	18	75	32	.297
2003	NEW YORK	AL	119	482	87	156	25	3	10	52	11	.324
2004	NEW YORK	AL	154	643	111	188	44	1	23	78	23	.292
2005	NEW YORK	AL	159	654	122	202	25	5	19	70	14	.309
2006	NEW YORK	AL	154	623	118	214	39	3	14	97	34	.343
2007	NEW YORK	AL	156	639	102	206	39	4	12	73	15	.322
2008	NEW YORK	AL	150	596	88	179	25	3	11	69	11	.300
2009	NEW YORK	AL	153	634	107	212	27	1	18	66	30	.334
2010	NEW YORK	AL	157	663	111	179	30	3	10	67	18	.270
2011	NEW YORK	AL	131	546	84	162	24	4	6	61	16	.297
2012	NEW YORK	AL	139	683	99	216	32	0	15	58	9	.316
2013	NEW YORK	AL	17	63	8	12	1	0	1	7	0	.190
2014	NEW YORK	AL	145	581	47	149	19	1	4	50	10	.256
CAREER TOTALS			2747	12602	1923	3465	544	66	260	1311	358	.310

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ARMED FOR ACTION

PETE GRAY OVERCAME A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT TO EARN A SPOT IN THE BIG LEAGUES.

BY JOHN POWERS

Ordinarily, Pete Gray never would have worn a major league uniform. He was 30 years old and missing his right arm.

“Son, I’ve got men with two arms who can’t play this game,” Connie Mack, manager of the cellar-dwelling Athletics, told him years earlier when Gray requested a tryout.

But by 1945, with the United States four years into World War II, more than 500 big league ballplayers were in the service. That made filling out a roster an uncommon challenge at a time when the major leagues still were segregated. So the St. Louis Browns signed Gray to play the outfield.

While Gray played only that one season before returning to the minors, he served as an inspiration to injured veterans and a role model for disabled youngsters.

“Boys, I can’t fight and so there is no courage about me,” Gray told the Philadelphia sportswriters who named him that year’s “Most Courageous Athlete.” “Courage belongs on the battlefield, not on the baseball diamond. But if I could prove to any boy who has been physically handicapped that he, too, can compete with the best – well, then, I’ve done my little bit.”

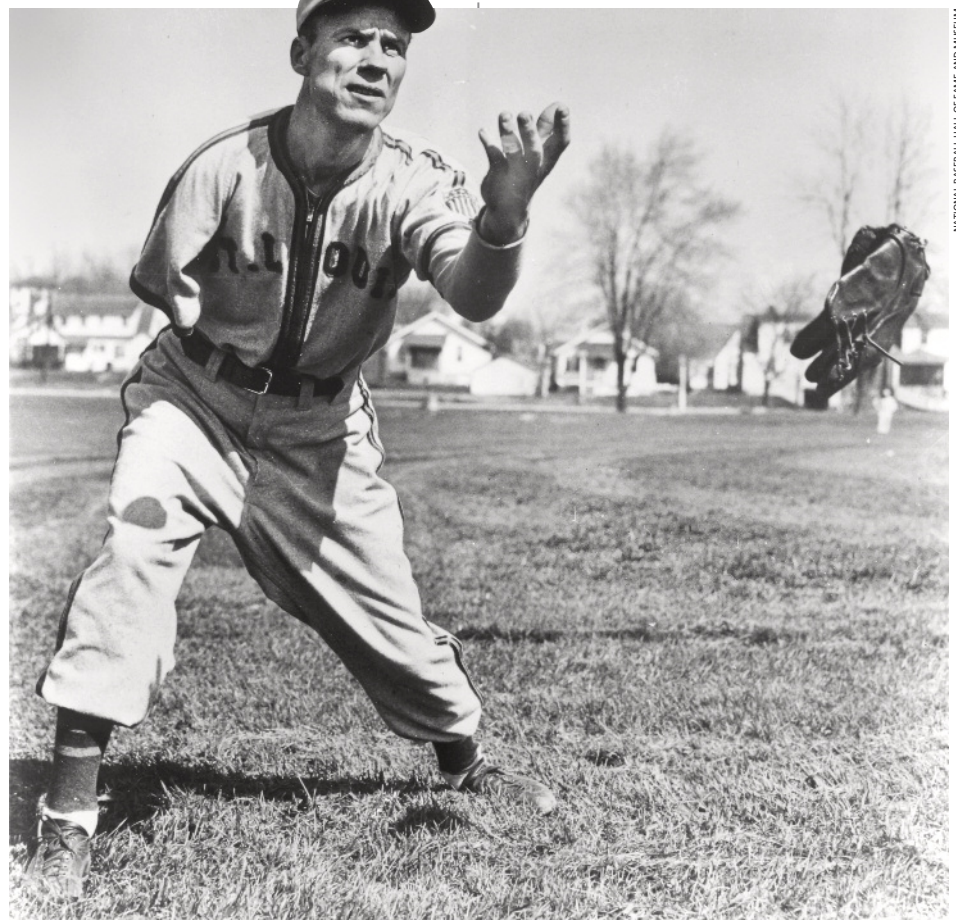
Gray, who’d tried to enlist after Pearl Harbor

but was turned down, would have preferred to wear a military uniform. “If I could teach myself how to play baseball with one arm,” he said, “I sure as hell could handle a rifle.”

Gray was born Peter Wyshner, one of five children of a Pennsylvania coal miner who’d emigrated from Lithuania, and grew up obsessed with baseball.

“There was a team on every street, seven diamonds in the town and kids would always be out playing,” said Gray, who was raised in Nanticoke, 20 miles from Scranton, and changed his name to avoid ethnic prejudice – as had older brother Joseph when he began boxing.

Gray’s life changed painfully and permanently at age 6 when he fell off the running board of a produce wagon and mangled a forearm in the spokes. Yet he persevered.



After catching the ball with his glove on his left hand, Pete Gray would pin the glove under the stump of his right arm and let the ball roll down into his left hand, where he would catch it so he could throw. In 29 games as a center fielder for the St. Louis Browns in 1945, Gray was charged with just one error.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Despite losing his right arm in a childhood accident, Pete Gray became a standout baseball player who starred for several semi-pro and minor league teams. He was named MVP of the Southern Association in 1944 after batting .333 with five home runs and 68 stolen bases for the Memphis Chicks, prompting the AL's St. Louis Browns to sign him the following season.

“Don’t let him feel sorry for himself – that’s the way my father treated me,” said Gray, whose right arm was amputated above the elbow.

He taught himself to swing left-handed, hitting rocks with a stick along the railroad tracks, and eventually could handle a 38-ounce bat. He devised a way to catch and throw by sticking his glove under the stub of his right arm and squeezing it until the ball rolled across his chest to his left hand.

Yet while he was good enough to play for semi-pro teams on weekends, Gray couldn’t get a look from a big league club.

“Get off the field, Wingy, or I’ll have the police come get you,” Phillies manager Doc Prothro told him at their 1940 camp in Miami.

Gray finally got his shot that year with the semi-pro Brooklyn Bushwicks by handing owner/manager Max Rosner a \$10 bill.

“Keep it if I don’t make good,” said Gray, who hit a homer in his first game. He ended up batting .350 in his two years in Brooklyn and earned a minor league spot with Trois-Rivieres in Quebec.

After hitting .381 there, Gray was picked up by Memphis, where he played for Prothro. After he was named the Southern Association’s MVP in 1944 – batting .333 with five home runs and 68 stolen bases – the Browns bought his contract for \$20,000, the largest ever for a Southern Leaguer, assigned him No. 14 and paid him \$3,000.

Gray received a skeptical reception from his new teammates, who’d won the franchise’s first pennant the previous year and doubted that he’d help them repeat.

“He didn’t belong in the major leagues, and he knew he was being exploited,” said manager

Luke Sewell, who told Gray not to expect any favors. “They were trying to get a gate attraction in St. Louis.”

Gray, who expected to be judged on his performance, was wary of being regarded as a freak show performer.

“He wanted to be known as a ballplayer, not a one-armed ballplayer,” said second baseman Don Gutteridge, who later managed the White Sox. “He didn’t want to be exploited because he had one arm.”

Gray quickly was labeled an ornery loner. “I mostly kept to myself,” he said. “That’s why I got the reputation of being tough to get along with.”

But Gray’s work ethic won over Sewell.

“If handling men were as easy as Pete, it would have been a breeze to manage,” he said. “He was perfect.”



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Throughout his baseball career and long afterwards, Pete Gray served as an inspiration to youngsters around the country.

Gray, who batted .218 in 77 games with St. Louis and struck out only 11 times in 234 at-bats, performed credibly in the early going. He went 4-for-8 with two runs and two RBI in a doubleheader sweep against the Yankees in May and did a capable job in the field, using a minimally padded glove crafted by a shoemaker that is now preserved at the Hall of Fame.

But it didn't take opponents long to find his limitations. Pitchers knew that he couldn't check swing, so they threw him curves and jammed him so he couldn't bunt. By the end of April, Gray was batting only .188 and was benched for eight games in early May.

Yet Gray had an impact well beyond the ballpark. Everyone knew about the Browns' one-armed wonder, who was featured in a Universal movie newsreel. He visited Army hospitals and rehab centers to meet with amputees.

How well would Gray have fared had he had two arms?

"Who knows?" he mused. "Maybe I wouldn't have done as well. I probably wouldn't have been as determined."


Determination, though, wasn't enough to keep him in the majors. After being benched for most of September, Gray reckoned that he'd be returning to the minor leagues.

"I figured I had a bad year, and I knew I was going back," he said. "I knew I was going somewhere. I didn't care as long as I was playing baseball and it was every day. The only thing I wanted to do when I was a kid was play in Yankee Stadium and that came true."

Meanwhile, the war ended and the regulars came back – only three of the Browns' field starters returned for the 1946 season. With the diamond level again, the Browns reverted

to their usual place in the standings. They finished seventh, 38 games behind the Red Sox, and were back in the American League cellar the following year.

Gray played a year for the Toledo Mud Hens then proceeded to Elmira before ending his career in Dallas in 1949. He returned to Nanticoke and his childhood home, barnstormed for a few years and discouraged interviews ("I've nothing to say"). Yet Gray's story endured, highlighted in 1986 by a TV movie (*A Winner Never Quits*) starring Keith Carradine.

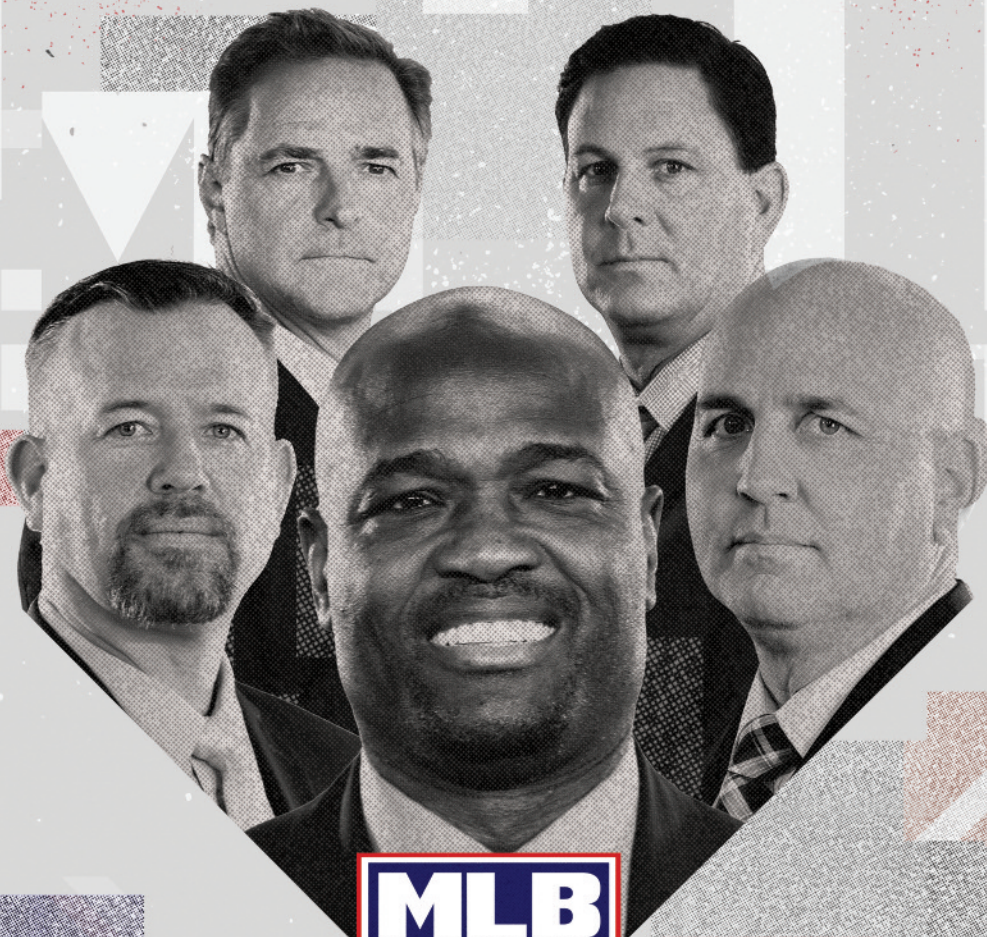
That was his proudest achievement, Gray told a nursing home visitor: "I never gave up." 

John Powers is a freelance writer who was a member of the Boston Globe staff for more than four decades. His son Evan pitched at Doubleday Field and survived the cozy confines.

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A SACRIFICE OF THEIR OWN

AAGPBL PLAYERS FACED WARTIME HARDSHIPS JUST LIKE THEIR MLB COUNTERPARTS.

BY CARROLL ROGERS WALTON

As the world commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, the natural inclination is to look back at what the war cost baseball.

How many more wins would Bob Feller have if he hadn't enlisted in the Navy just days after Pearl Harbor and missed the better part of four big league seasons? How far up the hit list would Ted Williams be if not for the three seasons he missed in his mid-20s, serving as a U.S. Marine fighter pilot? The Splinter is at No. 77 with 2,654.

But the war didn't just take away from baseball; it added to the game's history, too. Because of World War II, the first women's professional baseball league was created. The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, depicted years later in the blockbuster movie *A League of Their Own*, served as a precursor for all women's professional sports.

The AAGPBL, which played a hybrid between softball and baseball, was the brainchild of Chicago Cubs owner Philip Wrigley, who was looking for a stopgap if the war forced Major League Baseball to shut down. The chewing gum mogul used his vast scouting



From 1943-48, Betsy Jochum played for the AAGPBL's South Bend Blue Sox, enduring the wartime deprivations that faced all baseball players.

resources to scour the U.S. and Canada for the best female softball players and narrowed the field from 500 to 60 players among four teams at a tryout at Wrigley Field in 1943.

Wrigley strategically located teams in mid-sized Midwestern cities – Racine and Kenosha, Wis., Rockford, Ill., and South Bend, Ind. –

that were also home to wartime manufacturing plants. The league was created as a nonprofit and marketed as entertainment for war factory workers looking for something to do after their shifts. Due to gas and tire rations, as well as limits on travel, these workers were in need of such options close to home.

Ultimately, with the blessing of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Major League Baseball played on as well, despite losing a host of talented players to deployment overseas. For the big league players left behind, the game had some new challenges: Travel restrictions, rubber shortages that affected the quality of the baseballs, and limited access to ash wood that diminished bat supply.

The women of the AAGPBL, while facing similar limitations, were mostly just grateful for the chance to play baseball for money. They pulled in between \$45-\$85 a week, which meant some players – like South Bend outfielder Betsy Jochum – made more than their fathers did in blue collar jobs.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Jochum, 99, who played six seasons for the Blue Sox from 1943-48. "We got paid to travel. And any time you get paid to play the game, it's nice."

For the first two years during the war, teams traveled on trains rather than buses. Players had to carry their own luggage and equipment as they changed trains.

The women often wore men's spikes – some stuffed the toes with newspaper – and had to cut down ill-fitting men's catching equipment. Jochum said she bought her own bats from the local sporting goods store "and hoped they didn't break."

The standard league uniform was a skirted tunic, which meant players had to slide on bare legs. Sliding pads were available but weren't practical or attractive to players who were encouraged to show off their femininity.

"It was slide or get out, so we slid," said Jochum, who didn't bother with sliding pads. "They were cumbersome."

With 15-player rosters, AAGPBL teams played 112-game schedules from the end

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

of May to September, with very few off days and doubleheaders on Sundays. They played almost all of their games at night so factory workers could see them play, and they traveled either after games or early the following morning.

But for women who had grown up during the Great Depression, the hardships – both war-related and not – didn't seem overly daunting, especially when looking back on it 75 years later.

“Oh, it wasn't that bad really,” Jochem said.

There was one aspect of the war that affected some women of the AAGPBL in a unique and personal way, and that was playing while their husbands fought overseas.

The movie *A League of Their Own* featured an example of that in a scene believed to be based loosely on Milwaukee Chicks catcher Dorothy “Mickey” Maguire Chapman. In the movie, a player received a telegram from the war department before a game saying her husband had been killed. She broke down in tears and was escorted away by the team's chaperone.

In actuality, what happened to Chapman might have been too hard for moviegoers to believe. According to newspaper accounts, Chapman – then Dorothy Maguire – got a call from her mother before a game that her husband, Thomas Maguire, had been killed in action in Italy while serving as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. Chapman asked that the media not be told until after the game. She stayed and played.

According to more newspaper accounts, two months later Chapman received letters from her husband from a hospital in Italy. He'd been shot down and badly burned but was alive. Chapman had suffered unspeakable grief unnecessarily.

Her son Rick Chapman pieced together the story from articles he found in scrapbooks and by talking to people who knew her, because she never told him or his siblings about it. The story he got is that his mother ultimately divorced Maguire because he wanted her to quit baseball and help support his extended family in Cleveland.

“Growing up, she didn't talk about her playing ball and didn't talk about her being married to Tom Maguire,” said Rick Chapman, one of six children his mother had with her second husband, George Chapman.

In that way, AAGPBL players seemed to



Top: A seven-year AAGPBL veteran, Dorothy Maguire played in a league game just minutes after being informed of her husband's wartime death. Months later, Maguire learned that her husband had been badly injured but had not died. **Bottom:** AAGPBL players form the “V for Victory” symbol prior to a game during World War II.

share something in common with soldiers coming back from World War II. After the league folded following the 1954 season, many quit talking about their playing days – not because it was traumatic but because they thought no one would believe them.

“As a kid growing up, we found this funny-looking baseball,” Rick said, referring to an

AAGPBL ball that measured 10% inches in circumference. “It wasn't a softball; it wasn't a baseball. It had names on it. Our goal playing as a kid was to hit one over the barn. That was a home run. And we ended up losing them. We didn't know where they came from, other than they were in the attic somewhere.”

Rick said his curiosity didn't peak until he



Many AAGPBL players purchased their own equipment, including bats, due to wartime material shortages.

was a teenager and his younger brother Terry decided he wanted to be a catcher.

“My mom said, ‘This is how you play catcher,’ and she showed him, and she could throw that ball,” Rick said. “We said, ‘How do you know how to do that?’ She said, ‘I played ball,’ and then walked away.”

It wasn’t until 20 years later, on a visit to see her in LaGrange, Ohio, that he learned the extent of his mother’s playing past. He saw a newsletter sent by an AAGPBL alumna and asked her about it. The AAGPBL was holding its first-ever reunion in Chicago the following summer, in 1982.

He offered to drive her to Chicago when the time came because she suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and couldn’t drive. Rick said his mother was excited to go. But within a week or so of that conversation, she died suddenly of a heart attack at age 62.

She was missed at that reunion and the 29 that have been held since. She never knew about the PBS documentary that came out in 1987, the *Women in Baseball* exhibit that opened at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown in 1988 or the movie *A League of Their Own* that hit theaters in 1992.

Rick Chapman now serves as board president of the Players Association of the AAGPBL. His job is to help keep the legacies of women like his mother alive. He said the organization has tracked down 500 or so of the 600-plus players believed to have played at least one game in the AAGPBL. He said fewer than 65 are still living.

This year’s reunion was scheduled to be back in Chicago for the first time since 1982, but it was cancelled because of COVID-19. The 75th anniversary of the end of the World War II gives them another reason

to look back, though, and acknowledge what they accomplished.

“After the league ended, [players] found that if they tried to tell people they played professional baseball, people would say, ‘Oh you mean softball,’” said league historian Merrie Fidler, who turned a thesis paper into the book “The Origins and History of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.” “And they’d say, ‘No, baseball.’ Pretty soon they got tired of trying to explain that it was really baseball, so they didn’t....”

“Some of them didn’t even talk to their kids or grandkids about it until the movie came out and they all came out of the background. That was the neatest thing about the movie; it gave them the accolades they hadn’t gotten.”

Carroll Rogers Walton is a freelance writer based in Charlotte, N.C.

WAR BABE

WITH AMERICA FIGHTING WORLD WAR II, BABE RUTH WENT TO BAT FOR THE MILITARY.

BY BILL FRANCIS

UnCLE Sam was in the fight of its life. And even though he had been retired for nearly a decade, Babe Ruth came through as he had so often done during his ballplaying days. The United States' involvement in World War II – which followed the attack by Japanese warplanes on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and lasted four bloody years until the surrender of Japan on Sept. 2, 1945 – was the deadliest international conflict in our country's history.

In arguably the nation's most important struggle, the sports world acquitted itself admirably in the war effort. And Ruth, retired as a player since 1935, was leading the charge.

Undoubtedly the most celebrated athlete of his time, Ruth ended his 22-year big league career with 714 home runs, including his remarkable 60 in 1927. But it's what the Bambino did during the Second World War that helped his team win on a global field.

Ruth had an innate charisma and magnetism as a player and used these unique gifts to help fund the war effort – generally promoting the purchase of war bonds – in the 1940s. And the former baseball great headlined numerous fundraising events, whether it was on the golf course, from the batter's box, at a bowling alley or just making an appearance at a star-studded benefit or a movie house to encourage children to donate scrap metal.

According to Tom Shieber, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's lead curator of the exhibit *Babe Ruth: His Life and Legend*, which opened in 2014, Ruth's popularity was unparalleled.

"There was simply nothing like him, at the ballpark or on the town, during his playing career or after he hung up his spikes," Shieber said. "Of course, this translated directly to his ability to draw crowds. So when the country

found itself in need of raising funds for the war effort, it was only natural they would turn to the Babe. They knew he would deliver... and he did."

In a February 1944 poll conducted by *Esquire* magazine asking who was the greatest living sports personality – with sportscasters, sports editors and the public casting ballots – Ruth finished in first place, outdistancing such legendary figures as Jack Dempsey, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Connie Mack, Jim Thorpe, Kenesaw Mountain Landis and Joe Louis.

In the summer of 1941, with war raging in Europe but before the U.S.'s involvement, Ruth, 46, and longtime nemesis Ty Cobb, 54, agreed to a golf duel of three matches, with the money raised benefiting the USO.

"I have been hankering to take a shot at the Babe ever since I started playing golf," said Cobb in April 1941. "Anywhere, any time and for any charity."

The rivals good-naturedly battled in the charity golf duel, Cobb taking the initial round at the Commonwealth Country Club in



Babe Ruth (center) participated in numerous charity fundraising events after his retirement, including the All-American Boys Baseball Game on Aug. 28, 1945, at the Polo Grounds. Part of the proceeds from the game went to the Commission for Living War Memorials. Future big league pitcher Curt Simmons, third from the right, was named the MVP of the East team's 5-4 win over the West.



Left: Babe Ruth (right) and boxer Jack Dempsey were two of the most famous celebrities of their time. Ruth’s fame, however, continued well past his days as an athlete. **Right:** Babe Ruth signs autographs for United States soldiers during World War II. Ruth used his popularity after retiring as an active player to help rally support and raise money for the war effort by encouraging Americans to purchase war bonds.

Newton, Mass., and Ruth victorious at the Fresh Meadow Country Club in Flushing on Long Island, before the Georgia Peach captured the series at Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club outside Detroit.

“Babe was a nice fellow to play with – on the golf course,” said Cobb after the first match. “It seemed funny. Babe was very polite out there, and so was I. It was a big contrast to baseball.”

Two weeks after the bombing at Pearl Harbor, Ruth – who had received some criticism during World War I from fans and the press for playing ball instead of serving in the military – made newspapers across the country with his purchase of \$100,000 worth of war bonds at the Treasury Department’s office in New York City.

“We’ve got to knock those guys – Hitler, Mussolini and the [Japanese] – out of the box,” Ruth told reporters. “One safe and sure way of knocking the other boys out of the league is to buy defense bonds. We’re out for one thing: Victory.”

Ruth was so world famous that it was

reported in March 1944 that Japanese troops in the Pacific Theater charged Marine lines yelling: “To hell with Babe Ruth.”

The U.S. helped pay for WWII with the sale of war bonds, which are basically a loan to the government to help fund a war. During WWII, more than 85 million Americans purchased \$185.7 billion in war bonds. The bonds, sold at a 75-percent discount, had a 10-year maturity, when buyers could first receive the full face value, plus interest.

When Ruth and comedy legend Bob Hope played a benefit golf match at Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomfield, N.J., in June 1942, more than 2,000 spectators showed up and thousands of dollars were raised for Army-Navy relief funds.

“Well, I’m glad you’re here,” Hope joked to Ruth on the first tee. “At least there is someone I can beat.”

One of the more celebrated of Ruth’s war effort appearances during these years came when he faced old rival Walter Johnson on Aug. 23, 1942. In a homecoming for Ruth, who last played at Yankee Stadium in 1934,

more than 69,000 fans attended the Sunday doubleheader with the Washington Senators. But it was the batting exhibition from their former hero that drew all the headlines the next day.

Between games of the twin bill, a thunderous roar accompanied Ruth and Johnson when they came on the field. The Big Train threw about 20 pitches to Ruth, who homered to right field on both the fifth and last toss to thrill the crowd. Ruth circled the bases after his last swing – some reported the ball actually being foul – and triumphantly tipped his cap to the crowd.

The estimated \$80,000 raised, part of a general baseball fund set up following Pearl Harbor, would go to relieve the distress of the dependents of the country’s heroes.

In his 1948 book “The Babe Ruth Story,” written with Bob Considine, Ruth recalled: “I hadn’t had a bat in my hand for four years, and Walter hadn’t thrown a ball in that time.

“We went out on the field and it was one of the great thrills of my life in the game. The crowd that day numbered 60,000 and there was a new and lustier note in it – because of



Above: On Aug. 26, 1943, several Hall of Famers were among the legends who suited up to support the war effort by participating in the “Tableau of Yesterday,” a fundraising exhibition game at the Polo Grounds. Front row (left to right): Honus Wagner, Frankie Frisch, Babe Ruth, Walter Johnson and Tris Speaker. Back row: Duffy Lewis, Eddie Collins, Roger Bresnahan, Connie Mack (who managed the team), umpire Bill Klem, Red Murray and George Sisler. **Right:** Babe Ruth swings for the fences during the game, which attracted more than 35,000 fans to see the “New York All-Stars” battle the U.S. Army New Cumberland Reception Team. The event reportedly raised millions of dollars in war bond sales.



the war. It stood on its hind legs and gave us a terrific ovation.”

Ruth was so devoted to the cause he didn’t even take the night of his 48th birthday, on Feb. 6, 1943, to celebrate on his own. Attending a Baseball Writers’ Association of America dinner at the Hotel Commodore in New York City, he addressed the audience after receiving a birthday cake.

“I don’t think we are doing enough to the extent that we over here are having three square meals a day, while those men and women over there are living in trenches, mud and muck and are trying to get along,” Ruth said. “I think we should get behind those men and women who are striving to make a living for us over here. We should stick behind them and buy war bonds and stamps.”

A few months later – at a war bond game at Washington’s Griffith Stadium between the

Senators and a military baseball team that raised nearly \$2 million in war bond sales and also featured performances by singers Bing Crosby and Kate Smith – Ruth made a surprise appearance during the act of baseball clown Al Schacht imitating his “called shot” against the Cubs in the 1932 World Series.

“They’re carrying on a bigger series across the oceans, you know, with shells for bats and cannons for baseballs,” Ruth said during a stirring bond-buying speech. “We’re all doing as much as we can but that’s not enough. Those fellows over there are lying in trenches with mud and muck up to their necks, and we’ve got to pull them out.

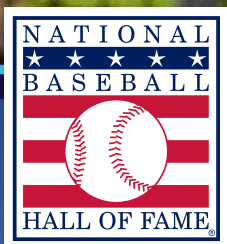
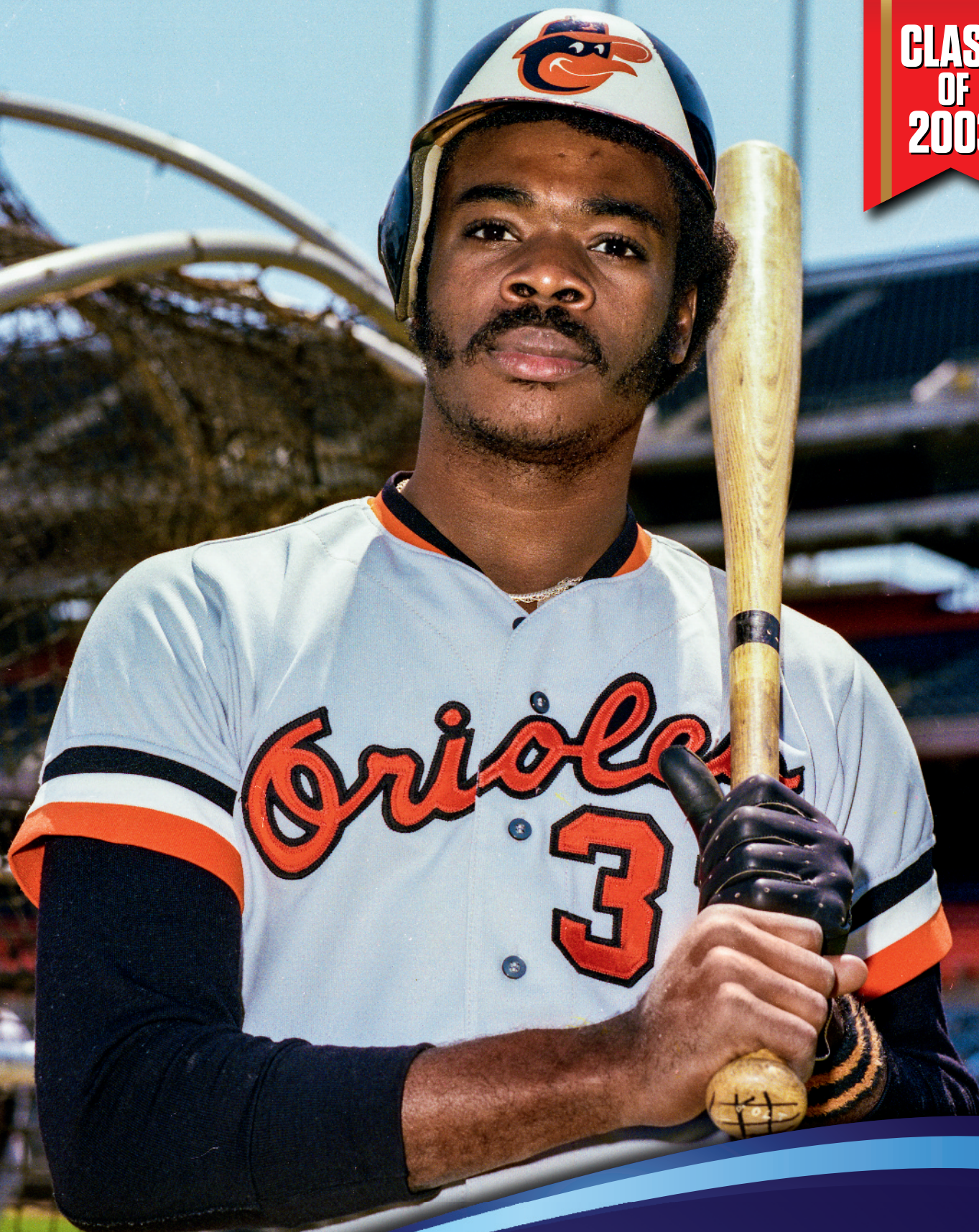
“I went to Japan in 1934 on a round-the-world tour, and we must have been met by one-and-a-half million Japanese, with their

own flag in one hand and an American flag in the other. I know what they’d like to do with our flag now, but let’s make them bow down and kiss it. The only way is for us to give our boys what they need. They’ll fight for us if we fight for them. We can fight by buying war bonds and stamps to supply planes and shells and ships.

“God bless those men and women over there, let’s put our shoulders to the wheel and fight for them as they are fighting for us, to keep our flag flying forever.”

Bill Francis is the senior research and writing specialist at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

CLASS
OF
2003



First Base

EDDIE MURRAY

HALL of FAME
STARTING
NINE
 The Must-See Artifacts from Your Team

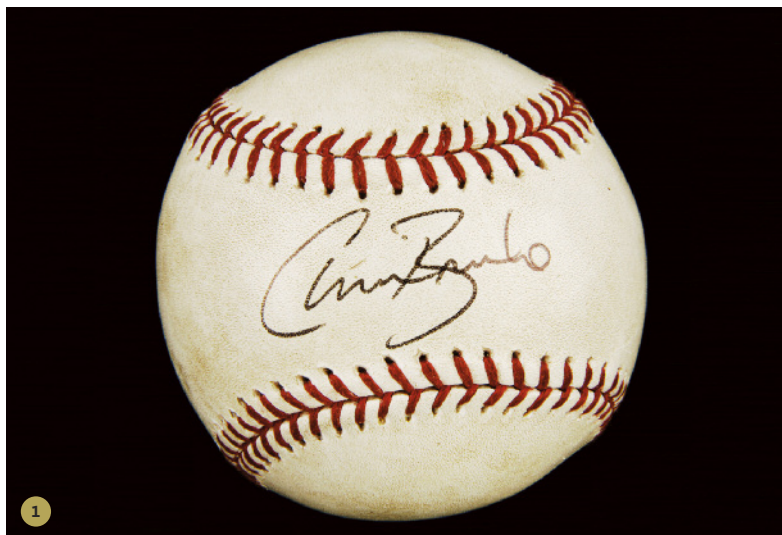


The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's collection of more than 40,000 three-dimensional pieces contains artifacts that tell the story of the game's legendary players, moments and triumphs. For a limited time, the Museum will share some of those memorable artifacts through a new experience: *Starting Nine*.

Featuring the nine must-see artifacts from each of the 30 current MLB franchises, *Starting Nine* is being showcased in each of the six issues of *Memories and Dreams* in 2020. This issue features the AL West.



American League West



WAITING FOR 18

When Brian McCann took Wandy Rodriguez deep leading off the eighth inning of Game 4 of the Braves vs. Astros NLDS on Oct. 9, 2005, Atlanta increased its lead to 6-1.

It seemed it would be only a matter of a few outs before the Braves would force a deciding Game 5.

Ten innings later, Chris Burke - who didn't enter the game until the 10th inning - won the longest game in Postseason history with a home run, setting off a wild celebration at Minute Maid Park.

"I almost feel guilty," Burke told the *Austin American-Statesman* following the game. "The physical toll is tremendous. I'm exhausted, and I only played nine innings."

The Astros began their rally in the bottom of the eighth inning when Lance Berkman's grand slam cut the Braves' lead to 6-5. Then in the ninth, Brad Ausmus' two-out home run tied the game at six.

Burke entered the game in the bottom of the 10th as a pinch-runner for Berkman, who had doubled with two outs. But Burke was stranded at second.

The teams continued to empty their bullpens, with 2005 NL earned-run average leader Roger Clemens taking the mound in the 16th in his first relief appearance in 21 years. Clemens pitched three scoreless innings, picking up the win when Burke hit a 2-0 pitch from Atlanta's Joey Devine over the left field wall with one out in the bottom of the 18th.

"You just keep going and going and going, and now it's almost six hours," Braves pitching coach Leo Mazzone told the *Associated Press* after watching a total of 553 pitches between the two teams. "Somebody's bound to make a mistake."

The game shattered the previous record for an extra inning Postseason game, set by the Mets and Astros in Game 6 of the 1986 NLCS. The win sent the Astros to the 2005 NLCS, where they defeated the Cardinals to advance to the World Series.

The ball hit by Burke is on display in the Museum's *Autumn Glory* exhibit.

HOUSTON ASTROS

- 1 Ball hit by Chris Burke to end longest game in Postseason history on Oct. 9, 2005
- 2 Nolan Ryan no-hitter cap from Sept. 26, 1981
- 3 2017 World Series ring
- 4 Light bulbs from Astrodome scoreboard
- 5 Alex Bregman glove from 2017 World Series
- 6 Nolan Ryan 1983 jersey
- 7 Ball thrown by Justin Verlander during his no-hitter on Sept. 1, 2019
- 8 Artificial turf from the Astrodome
- 9 José Altuve spikes worn while stealing two bases in four straight games June 26-29, 2014



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

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

- 1 Bat used by Rod Carew for his 3,000th hit on Aug. 4, 1985
- 2 Spikes worn by Albert Pujols when he hit his 600th career double on Sept. 16, 2016
- 3 Rally Monkey from 2002 World Series-winning season
- 4 Cap worn by Mike Trout during his 2012 American League Rookie of the Year season
- 5 Cap worn by Nolan Ryan during his second no-hitter of the season on July 15, 1973
- 6 Reggie Jackson helmet worn for his 500th home run on Sept. 17, 1984
- 7 Bat used by Adam Kennedy to hit three home runs in Game 5 of the 2002 ALCS
- 8 Jersey worn by Francisco Rodriguez when he set a new single-season record with his 58th save
- 9 Shohei Ohtani cap worn on April 1, 2018, when he recorded his first MLB win on the mound

ALL PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



MAGICIAN'S WAND

Rod Carew's 3,000th hit looked like many before it: A well-placed liner into left field by a batter who seemed to wield the lumber like it was some kind of magic wand.

On Aug. 4, 1985, Carew's magic was as mesmerizing as ever.

At age 39, Carew became the 16th member of the 3,000-hit club with his third-inning single off Minnesota's Frank Viola at Anaheim Stadium. The 41,630 fans in attendance that Sunday afternoon saw the culmination of a pursuit that began 18 years earlier when Carew was a rookie with the Twins.

"I'm just glad it's over," said Carew, who was playing under the shadow of an impending players strike that started Aug. 6 but ended the following day. "Now I can sleep at night."

Carew's first hit came in his first big league at-bat on April 11, 1967 – a single against the Orioles' Dave McNally. He would quickly establish himself as one of the best hitters in baseball, winning the American League Rookie of the Year Award after pounding out 150 hits and batting .292.

In 1969, Carew – a native of Panama who came to the United States at age 14 but did not play high school baseball – won the first of his seven AL batting titles with a .332 average.

After 12 seasons with the Twins, which included a career-best .388 average in 1977, Carew was traded to the Angels in February 1979.

"It's just a great feeling – great feelings that no one can describe," Carew told the *San Bernardino Sun* after his 3,000th hit. "I've heard the names all along: Ty Cobb, Stan Musial, Paul Waner. It's just a great feeling."

The crowd at Anaheim Stadium – hoping to see history that day – gave Carew a two-minute standing ovation following his milestone hit. After reaching first base, Carew shook hands with coach Bobby Knoop and then accepted congratulations from his smiling teammates.

Angels manager Gene Mauch presented Carew with the first base bag, and team owner Gene Autry addressed Carew from the field.

"Believe me, it's a great honor to have you in an Angel uniform," Autry said, "and it's quite a thing to have you do it against a team you played so long with."

Carew retired following the 1985 season with a .328 career batting average, 3,053 hits and 18 All-Star Game selections.

He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1991.

"You know he's got to get (his hits)," said Twins coach Tony Oliva following Carew's 3,000th hit. "The only way he wasn't going to get them is if someone cut off his hands – and even then he'd probably find a way."

Carew's bat is on exhibit in the Hall of Fame's *iViva Baseball!* exhibit.





POINTED FINGERS

The game's greatest championship dynasty - among teams not named the New York Yankees - was authored by the Oakland Athletics from 1972-74.

And the man responsible for the majority of those 12 World Series wins was named Rollie Fingers.

On Oct. 17, 1974, Fingers pitched two scoreless innings to end Game 5 of the Fall Classic against the Dodgers. When Von Joshua grounded out to Fingers to end the game - causing Fingers to take several joyous leaps while tossing the ball to first baseman Gene Tenace - the A's ace reliever picked up his second save of the World Series en route to Most Valuable Player honors.

"I was told if we got the lead, I'd be in the game," Fingers told the *Associated Press*.

That was no surprise. Of the 19 World Series games the A's played from 1972-74, Fingers pitched in 16 of them. He totaled two wins and six saves to go with a 1.35 ERA and finished 10 of the games he pitched.

"I was getting tired," Fingers said after Game 5 in 1974. "The back of my arm hurt so I couldn't get a breaking ball over [the plate]. I could only get my fastball over."

The Game 5 win gave the Athletics three straight World Series titles. Only the Yankees - with three crowns in 1998-2000, four titles from 1936-39 and five championships from 1949-53 - have ever been as successful.

Fingers bounced between the A's rotation and bullpen during his first two full seasons in the majors in 1969 and 1970. But in 1971, manager Dick Williams saw the future and began using Fingers primarily as a reliever. After two spot starts in 1973, Fingers never started another game in the big leagues.

Fingers was named to his first of seven All-Star Games in 1973, led the American League in appearances with 76 in 1974 and won a combined 23 games and saved 44 more in 1975-76. By then, Athletics owner Charlie Finley had begun to dismantle his dynasty in the face of free agency - and Fingers left Oakland to sign with the Padres prior to the 1977 season.

Fingers led the NL in saves in both 1977 and 1978, then posted his best-ever season in 1981 following a trade to Milwaukee. That year, Fingers was 6-3 with 28 saves in a strike-shortened season, winning the AL Cy Young and Most Valuable Player Awards.

But for the man who held the MLB career saves record from 1980-91, the team success with the Athletics would always be his defining time.

"Every bottle," Fingers said of the victory champagne following the World Series victories, "tastes a little better every year."

Fingers' jersey from Game 5 of the 1974 World Series is on exhibit in the Hall of Fame's *Autumn Glory* exhibit.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS

- 1 Rollie Fingers jersey from Game 5 of 1974 World Series when he was named MVP
- 2 Eddie Plank sweater circa 1913
- 3 Howard Ehmke glove from Game 1 of 1929 World Series when he set a record with 13 strikeouts
- 4 Ball from Connie Mack's final win as a manager on Oct. 1, 1950
- 5 Spikes worn by Rickey Henderson when he stole his record 119th base in a season on Aug. 27, 1982
- 6 Dave Stewart jersey from Game 3 of 1989 World Series when he was named MVP
- 7 Dallas Braden spikes worn in his perfect game on May 9, 2010
- 8 Khris Davis jersey worn Sept. 21, 2018, when he hit his 44th and 45th homers of the season
- 9 Dennis Eckerlesley glove from early 1990s

ALL PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



SEATTLE MARINERS

- 1 Ken Griffey Jr. bat used during his streak of eight straight games with a home run in 1993
- 2 Cap from 1969 Seattle Pilots
- 3 Edgar Martinez jersey from his last game on Oct. 3, 2004
- 4 1989 Upper Deck Ken Griffey Jr. baseball card
- 5 Edgar Martinez bat from Sept. 23, 2000, when he recorded his 139th RBI of the season
- 6 Ichiro Suzuki jersey from Sept. 13, 2009, when he recorded his 200th hit of the season
- 7 Félix Hernández jersey from his perfect game on Aug. 15, 2012
- 8 Robinson Canó bat from his 500th career double on Aug. 4, 2017
- 9 Ichiro Suzuki bat used during his 262-hit season in 2004

ALL PHOTOS BY MILO STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



2



3



1

EIGHTH WONDER

Ken Griffey Jr. had burst onto the scene as a 19-year-old prodigy in 1989 and was a three-time All-Star by the end of the 1992 season.

But in 1993, Griffey ascended into the upper echelon of sports icons - a place he seemed destined from the start.

On July 28, 1993, Griffey homered in his eighth straight game to tie the all-time big league record. The mark was set by the Pirates' Dale Long in 1956 and matched by the Yankees' Don Mattingly in 1987, but Griffey's run at the record seemed to be different.

With the national media documenting his every plate appearance, Griffey was writing his legend.

"He can do things other guys can't do," Mariners teammate Tino Martinez told the *Associated Press*. "He's playing way above everybody else in baseball right now."

Griffey began the streak on July 20 with an eighth-inning home run off New York's Paul Gibson at Yankee Stadium. He homered the next day off Jimmy Key and connected for the third straight game on July 22, a blast against the Indians' Jeff Mutis after the Mariners moved on to Cleveland.

By the fourth game - which featured a sixth-inning home run off Albie Lopez for Griffey's 26th home run of the season - the media had begun to take note. It was Griffey's second four-game homer streak of the season, following a stretch from June 20-23.

Griffey homered in his fifth consecutive game on July 25 off Matt Young, then completed his domination of the Indians series with a homer off José Mesa on July 26 in front of a Sunday crowd of 54,378 at Cleveland Stadium.

"They always say home runs come in streaks," Griffey told the *Associated Press* after his sixth straight game with a home run. "I pay no attention. I just go up there and hit, use all the ballpark as much as I can."

After an off day, the Mariners returned to Seattle to play the Twins on July 27 - and Griffey homered in the third inning off Kevin Tapani to come within one of the record. The next night, he took Willie Banks deep in the seventh inning to tie Long and Mattingly.

At 23 years old, Griffey was on top of the baseball world.

"He is going to be the next Michael Jordan," Tigers manager Sparky Anderson told *Gannett News Service*.

Griffey fell short of setting a new standard of nine straight games with a homer, going 2-for-4 with a double in four plate appearances against Scott Erickson and Larry Casian on July 29 in front of 45,607 fans at the Kingdome - 30,220 of whom bought tickets on game day.

"On that last swing, I tried so hard to do it for the fans here," Griffey told the *Associated Press* about his at-bat against Casian in the seventh inning that resulted in a pop-up to Twins second baseman Chuck Knoblauch. "I didn't want to let them down."

Griffey finished the season with 45 home runs, 109 RBI and an American League-leading 359 total bases. In six seasons from 1994-99, Griffey would lead the AL in home runs four times.

He finished his big league career with 630 home runs over 22 seasons and earned election to the Hall of Fame in 2016.

A bat that Griffey used during his 1993 streak is on display in the Hall of Fame's *One for the Books* exhibit.



MOST VALUABLE BAT

Iván Rodríguez reached the 30-homer mark only once in his 21-year big league career. But when he did, he made history.

Rodríguez hit his 35th home run of the season on Oct. 1, 1999, setting a new American League standard for catchers. Terry Steinbach had held the record previously with 34 homers while appearing as a catcher in 1996 for Oakland.

"In all phases of the game, along with being durable ... I would argue with anyone that he's the best," Rangers manager Johnny Oates told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. "In my lifetime, I've never seen anyone better."

At 27 years old, Rodríguez powered the Rangers to the American League West title. Following the season, he became the ninth catcher to win the Baseball Writers' Association of America's MVP Award. He finished the season with a .332 batting average, 35 home runs, 113 RBI, 116 runs scored and 25 stolen bases - making him the first catcher to post a 20-homer/20-stolen base season.

Of his 199 hits, 198 came while he was catching - the most ever by a catcher in one season.

Defensively, Rodríguez had long been considered one of the best in the game. He maintained his excellence behind the plate in 1999, leading the AL by erasing 54.7 percent of runners who tried to steal en route to his eighth Gold Glove Award.

"This puts him further on the path to the Hall of Fame," said Rangers general manager Doug Melvin.

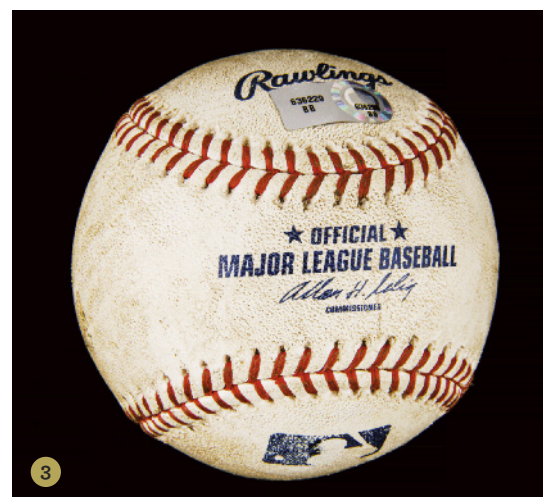
Melvin was proven correct in 2017 when Rodríguez was elected to Cooperstown.

The bat Rodríguez used to hit his record 35th home run is on display in the Museum's *iViva Baseball!* exhibit.



TEXAS RANGERS

- 1 Iván Rodríguez bat used to hit his 35th homer of the season on Oct. 1, 1999
- 2 Ron Hansen glove used for unassisted triple play with Senators on July 30, 1968
- 3 Final out ball of Rangers' 30-3 win over the Orioles on Aug. 22, 2007
- 4 Michael Young jersey worn when he recorded his 2,000th career hit on Aug. 7, 2011
- 5 Nolan Ryan cap from his seventh no-hitter on May 1, 1991
- 6 Juan González bat used during April 1998 when he recorded a record 35 RBI for the month
- 7 Álex Rodríguez bat used during September 2002 en route to his 57-home run season
- 8 Bengie Molina bat used when he hit for the cycle on July 16, 2010
- 9 Adrián Beltré jersey worn when he hit three home runs in Game 4 of the ALDS on Oct. 4, 2011



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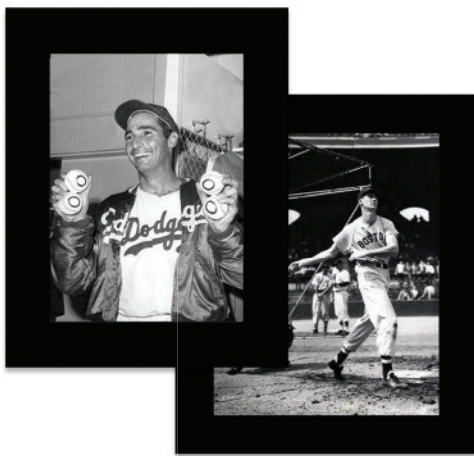
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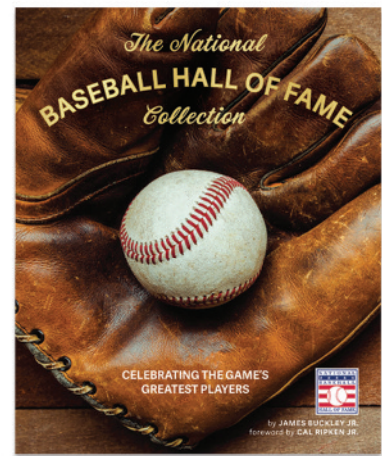
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Doubling Up

Members of Class of 2020 will be inducted with any electees who emerge from Class of 2021 election.

BY CRAIG MUDER

The potential members of the Hall of Fame Class of 2021 will find some special friends waiting for them at Induction Weekend.

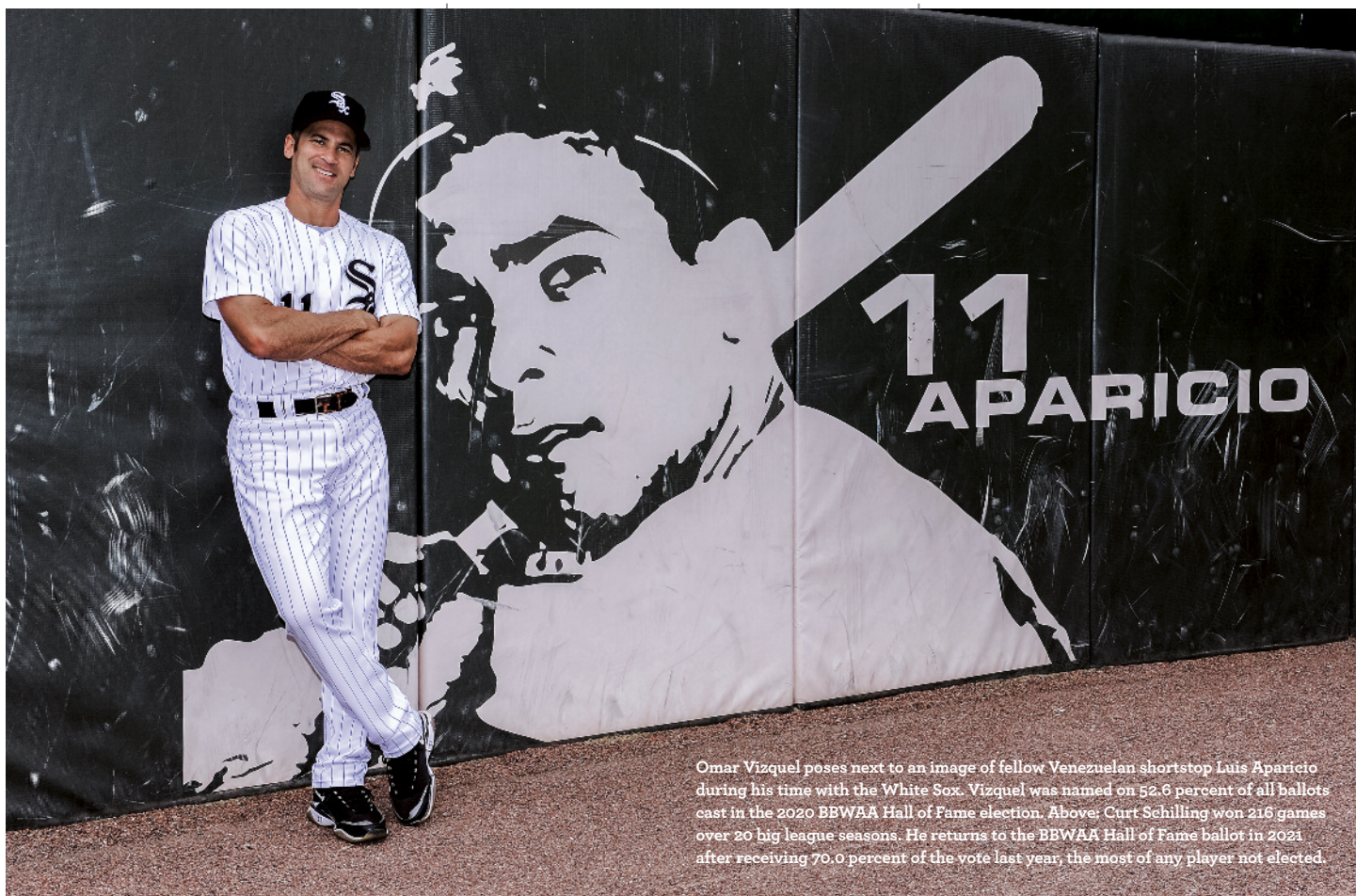
Class of 2020, your reservations are in place. But save a little room just in case.

With the 2020 *Induction Ceremony*

postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hall of Fame Board of Directors announced in April that the 2021 *Induction Ceremony* would feature the Class of 2020 and any elected members of the Class of 2021. That ceremony will be held Sunday, July 25, in Cooperstown as part of the July 23-26 Induction Weekend.



BRAD MANNING/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



RON VESELY/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Omar Vizquel poses next to an image of fellow Venezuelan shortstop Luis Aparicio during his time with the White Sox. Vizquel was named on 52.8 percent of all ballots cast in the 2020 BBWAA Hall of Fame election. Above: Curt Schilling won 216 games over 20 big league seasons. He returns to the BBWAA Hall of Fame ballot in 2021 after receiving 70.0 percent of the vote last year, the most of any player not elected.



Left: In his eighth year on the BBWAA Hall of Fame ballot in 2020, Roger Clemens was named on 61.0 percent of all ballots cast. He'll return to the BBWAA ballot in 2021. **Right:** Barry Bonds was named on 60.7 percent of all ballots cast in the 2020 BBWAA election. He returns to the ballot for the ninth time.

Derek Jeter, Marvin Miller, Ted Simmons and Larry Walker comprise the Class of 2020.

The Class of 2021 will feature any electees who emerge from the Baseball Writers' Association of America vote in January.

The 2021 Baseball Writers' Association of America Hall of Fame ballot will feature 14 players who received the minimum required five percent of the vote in 2020 to remain on the ballot, were not elected and who have not yet exhausted their 10 years of ballot eligibility.

Of the candidates not elected by the BBWAA in 2020 who are returning to the ballot, Curt Schilling received the most votes, earning 70.0 percent of the 397 votes cast – falling just 20 votes short of election. Schilling will appear on the BBWAA ballot for the ninth time.

Other candidates returning to the ballot include (in order of 2020 vote percentage, with 2021 year on the ballot): Roger Clemens (61.0 percent, on ballot for ninth year), Barry Bonds (60.7, ninth year), Omar Vizquel (52.6, fourth year), Scott Rolen (35.3, fourth year), Billy Wagner (31.7, sixth year), Gary Sheffield (30.5, seventh year), Todd Helton (29.2, third year), Manny Ramírez (28.2, fifth year), Jeff Kent (27.5, eighth year), Andruw Jones (19.4, fourth year), Sammy Sosa (13.9, ninth year), Andy Pettitte (11.3, third year) and Bobby Abreu (5.5, second year).

Prior to the summer of 2020, the Hall of Fame had held an *Induction Ceremony* in Cooperstown every year since 1961. An *Induction Ceremony* was not held in 1950, 1958 and 1960

after voting resulted in no new electees, while no elections were held in 1940, 1941 and 1943. In 1942, Rogers Hornsby was elected but an *Induction Ceremony* was not held due to travel restrictions related to World War II.

Next summer's *Induction Ceremony* will be the first since 1949 to combine multiple classes of electees. The first four Classes of Hall of Fame members, elected from 1936-39, were all enshrined June 12, 1939, the day of the Museum's formal opening. The Classes of 1946 and 1947 were inducted together in 1947, and the Classes of 1948 and 1949 were inducted together in 1949. 📌

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

JACKIE'S BATTLE

AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. ARMY, JACKIE ROBINSON FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY BEFORE HE REACHED EBBETS FIELD.

BY CLAIRE SMITH

Seventy-five years ago, on Sept. 2, 1945, Japan officially surrendered to the Allied Forces, ending with a stroke of a pen World War II.

That moment, acted out with pomp and circumstance on the deck of the USS Missouri that day, is etched in history. Etched also in many minds are the oft-told stories of all those who served.

Among the millions who set aside lives and livelihoods to help secure that peace were countless ballplayers. Included were 34 future Hall of Famers who joined up to fight for their countries. With peace secured, they exchanged military uniforms for team uniforms again, not knowing how much their stories helped shape the narrative of their generation.

Ted Williams, an aviator with the Marines, set records for gunnery scores while training, thanks in part to his remarkable 20/10 eyesight. Commissioned in the Corps on May 2, 1944, he trained other pilots until 1946. When America went to war, again, in Korea, Williams flew 39 combat missions, serving at one point as wingman for the

future legendary astronaut John Glenn.

Warren Spahn fought for the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Bulge and received a battlefield commission. Later wounded in the battle for the only bridge crossing the Rhine, he received a Purple Heart.

Yogi Berra, age 19, manned a machine gun on a U.S. Navy rocket boat off the coast of France on D-Day. He would earn a Purple Heart, a Distinguished Unit Citation, two battle stars and a European Theatre of Operations ribbon.

But while fighting for their country, Black Americans also fought the same war for civil rights.

Leon Day, the standout pitcher for the Newark Eagles, and power-hitting Willard Brown of the Kansas City Monarchs both served in the Army in the European Theatre. Day, a member of the 818th Amphibian Battalion, was at Utah Beach on D-Day. Both were elected to the Hall of Fame following their playing careers.

Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson also wore the uniform of his country during World War II. No surprise to those familiar with his fighting spirit, Robinson was as successful in the service as he was on the athletic field. After joining the Army in 1942, Robinson attended

officer candidate school, and in January 1943, 25-year-old Jackie Robinson was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

It was then that the newly minted lieutenant joined the multitudes of Black Americans in the segregated armed forces. Raised in California, he was about to meet Jim Crow, the umbrella rule of law and southern mores that enforced segregation below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Down South, racism was overt. One's blackness was treated with scorn and, too often, deadly hatred. It did not matter that Black servicemen and women were being asked to die for their country, if needed. Large swaths of that country still literally or figuratively divided hotels, public transportation, schools, even water fountains by "colored only" and "whites only" signs, laws and attitudes.

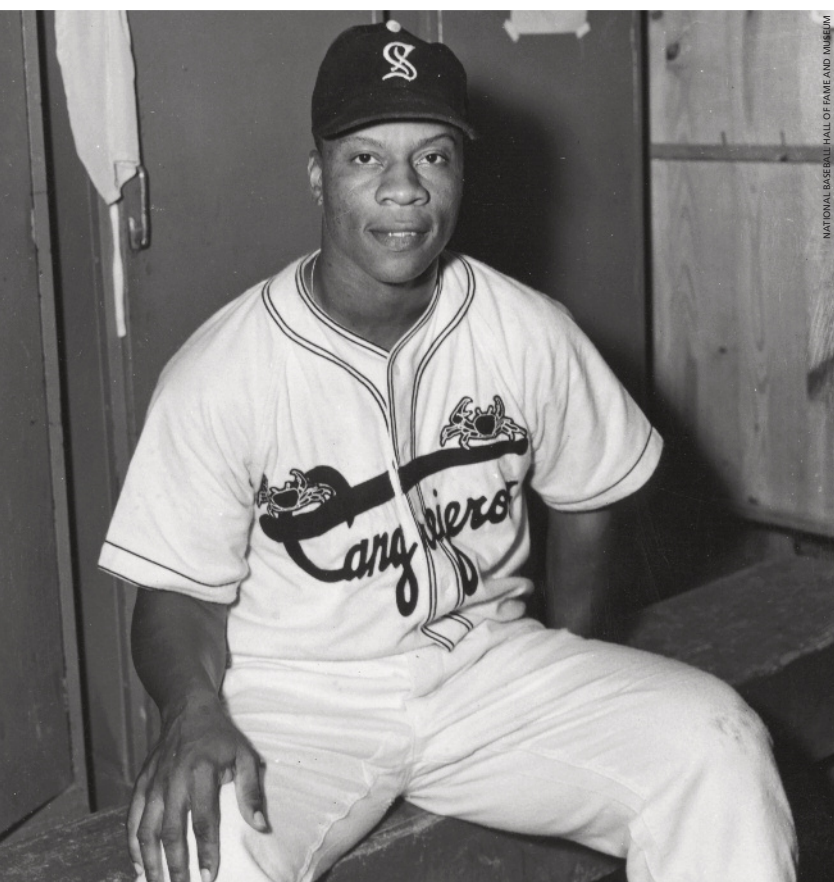
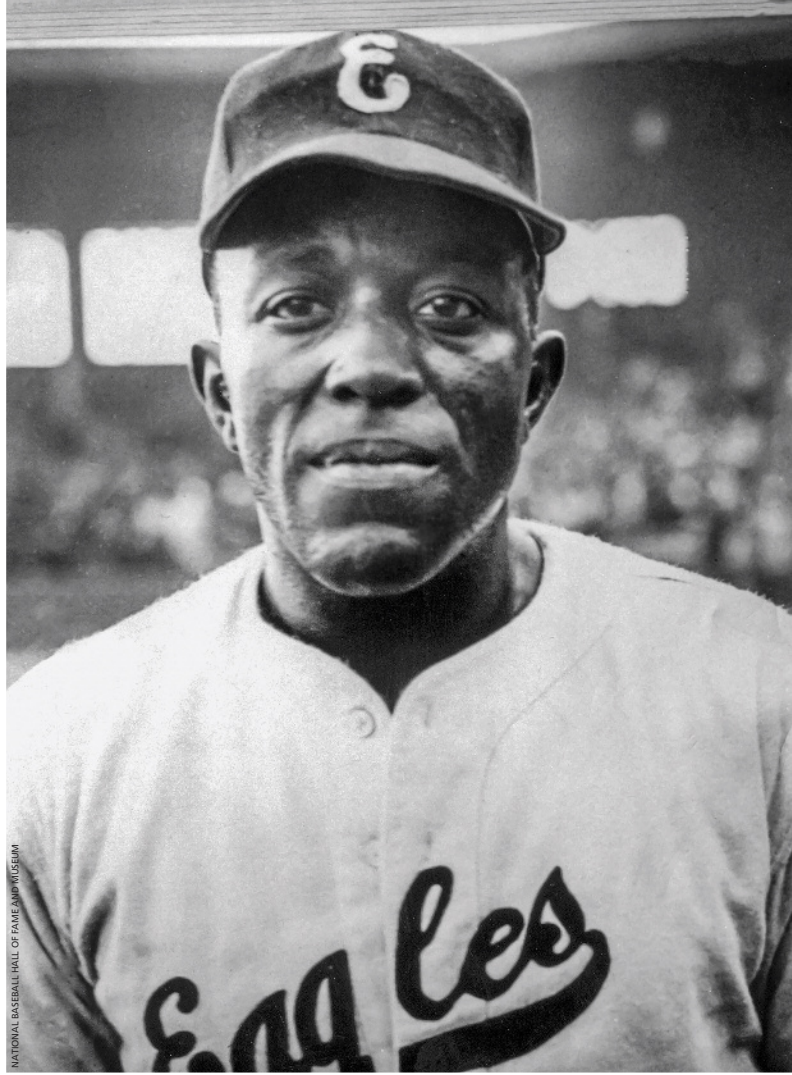
Robinson, raised in diverse Southern California, bristled in Jim Crow country. Hadn't he played for, and excelled on, integrated teams at UCLA, where he lettered in four sports? Hadn't he set collegiate records against white and Black athletes, some of which still stand today?

When assigned to Fort Riley in Kansas, Robinson – placed in charge of morale – pushed back against the segregation on the base, particularly protesting a rule that made it all but impossible for Black soldiers to secure more than a couple of seats at the Post Exchange (PX).

"Robinson telephoned the base provost marshal, Major Hafner, to protest this situation; the major said that taking seats away from the white soldiers and giving them to blacks would cause a problem among the white troops," wrote historian Jules Tygiel in *American Heritage* in 1984. "Furthermore, he could not believe that the lieutenant actually wanted the races seated together.

"'Let me put it this way,' Robinson remembered the officer as saying: 'How would you like to have your wife sitting next to a n*****?' Robinson exploded. 'Major, I happen to be a Negro,' he shouted, 'and I don't know that to have anyone's wife sitting next to a Negro is any worse than to have her sitting next to some of these white soldiers I see around here.'

Jackie Robinson enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant a year later. Hall of Famers (clockwise from top right) Leon Day, Larry Doby and Willard Brown were among the hundreds of Black ballplayers who served honorably during World War II.



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

“I just want you to know,’ said Hafner, ‘that I don’t want my wife sitting close to any colored guy.’

“How the hell do you know that your wife hasn’t already been close to one?’ asked Robinson as he launched into a tirade against the major. The provost marshal hung up on him, but Robinson’s protest was not fruitless: Although separate areas in the Post Exchange remained the rule, blacks were allotted additional seats.”

By the summer of 1944, Robinson moved further south, to Texas, to Camp (now Fort) Hood. Life around a base named for a Confederate hero (Lieutenant Gen. John Bell Hood) had not evolved favorably for Black Americans in the decades after the Civil War.

“The prejudice and discrimination at Camp Hood made [other bases] seem ultraliberal in [their] attitude,” Harry Duplessis, one of Robinson’s fellow black officers, told Tygiel (*American Heritage*, Aug./Sept., 1984). “Camp Hood was frightening.... Segregation there was so complete that I even saw outhouses marked White, Colored, and Mexican.”

Initially assigned to a Black tank unit, Robinson was prevented from deploying overseas with the 761st Tank Battalion because of a flare-up of lingering issues related to broken ankle injuries suffered as a football player.

“My CO sent me to the hospital for a physical checkup,” Robinson told *Yank* magazine on Nov. 23, 1945, “and they changed my status to permanent limited service.”

Robinson would go on to receive a medical discharge on Nov. 28, 1944, but not before he most famously refused to bow down to Jim Crow. His final act of defiance against the segregated Army began on a bus ride on July 6, 1944.

One month after D-Day, Robinson was returning to a hospital 30 miles from Camp Hood to collect test results. He sat up front, where he was confronted by the driver, who told Robinson to move farther back from where he sat, which was next to a fellow officer’s light-skinned wife. In essence: Move to the back of the bus.

That one simple thing – sitting in a front seat – had become an often-dangerous flashpoint for Black servicemen and women across the South. After one soldier was shot and killed by a driver, the Army, under pressure from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), skipped around

segregated public transportation by starting its own non-segregated bus service on bases. Still, as Robinson found out that day, the rules too often were ignored or violated.

Robinson, though, knew the regulations. Eleven years before Rosa Parks’ refusal to move sparked the historic Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, Robinson did not yield. As he wrote to the NAACP two weeks later, “I refused to move because I recalled a letter from



While serving in Texas, Jackie Robinson was charged in a military court after he refused to move to the back of a bus. Robinson was eventually found not guilty of all charges and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on Nov. 28, 1944.

Washington, which states that there is to be no segregation on army posts.” In his autobiography, Robinson stated that boxers Joe Louis and Ray Robinson had also influenced his actions by their refusals to obey Jim Crow regulations at a bus depot in Alabama.

Nothing in the rule books could prevent Robinson from having to run a gauntlet of racist abuses from that point on. He not only had angry face-offs with the bus driver and a depot dispatcher, but also a military policeman who dropped the “N” word on the lieutenant, a reportedly hostile assistant provost marshal and even a civilian stenographer (who reportedly interrupted Robinson to add her own opinions about why he should have moved).

After his camp commander refused to court-martial him, Robinson was soon transferred away from the 761st. The camp commander of the 758th Tank Battalion did not hesitate, levying charges of insubordination, disturbing the peace, drunkenness, conduct unbecoming an officer, insulting a civilian

woman and refusing to obey the lawful orders of a superior officer.

“The people have a pretty good bunch of lies,” Robinson wrote to the NAACP. “When I read some of the statements of the witnesses, I was certain that these people had got together and [were] going to frame me.”

While admitting that he had cursed after the bus dispatcher had called him a “n****r,” he denied “calling the people around all sorts of names.”

Though some charges were eventually dropped, a guilty verdict based on the insubordination accusation alone could have resulted in a dishonorable discharge. Fellow Black soldiers began raising concerns with the NAACP that Robinson was being set up. Black newspapers with large readerships in big cities in the North started weighing in. The Army was about to prosecute a known celebrity. Black America, including allies like Joe “The Brown Bomber” Louis, was watching.

In early August 1944, a four-day trial began, filled with testimony from many a prosecution witness. Finally, nine judges, in a vote by secret ballot, ruled that Jackie Robinson was “not guilty of all specifications and charges.”

“My father took a bold stand with the Armed Forces and against Jim Crow,” Sharon Robinson, daughter of Rachel and Jackie Robinson, said in a recent interview. “Ultimately, he won.”

Like Bob Feller, Yogi Berra, Larry Doby and others, Jackie Robinson eventually got to take off the uniform of his country – with honor. Then he donned baseball uniforms with pride, first for the Negro Leagues’ famed Kansas City Monarchs, then in history-making fashion for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

With that last uniform change, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson joined with Dodgers owner Branch Rickey to shatter baseball’s color barrier.

Would that last iconic stand have been possible had Robinson lost to Jim Crow and those who would court-martial him?

“I believe this show of leadership and self-confidence,” said Sharon Robinson, “was one of the factors in Branch Rickey’s decision to interview and hire Jackie Robinson.”

Claire Smith is the 2017 winner of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America’s J.G. Taylor Spink Award.



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.

BASEBALLHALL.ORG/MUSEUMINATION

WHAT WE'VE DONE TOGETHER

#COOPERSTOWNMEMORIES

As history has shown us time and time again, baseball has a tremendous impact on families and friends everywhere – often serving to heal us during our challenges.

During times of uncertainty, one thing that the entire staff at the Museum is sure of: Together we will continue to preserve the game's greatest stories – and our own baseball memories.

As baseball fans, we all have stories: Our first trip to Cooperstown, meeting a Hall of Famer during Hall of Fame Weekend, seeing an exhibit that brings our own memories flooding back, stepping into the Plaque Gallery and feeling the connection to the game's all-time greats – the memories are countless.

We would love for you to share your **#CooperstownMemories** with us.

Simply send an email that includes your story and your name to development@baseballhall.org, and we'll begin to compile them and share selected ones with our "baseball family."

Here are a few stories shared with us from supporters like you:



My name is Jeff Bryant, and unfortunately I have only had the great privilege to visit the Hall once, in 1985. I was so impressed, I became a member and remain a member to this day. My wife and I flew into New York and drove from New York City through the beautiful countryside and emerged in the Village of Cooperstown.

Having grown up in the 1950s and 1960s in North Louisiana, I became a baseball fan for life at age 5. I was able to watch baseball on TV, seeing some of the greats of the game: Mantle, Mays, Aaron, Berra, Whitey Ford and many others, and hearing the games announced by the likes of Dizzy Dean and Pee Wee Reese. Then to actually be in the building where these and all the other greats have been for their Induction made a lasting impression on me. The exhibits displayed are so meticulously placed and maintained. I remember watching a film there about the great Roberto Clemente.

It is my honor to support the Hall through my annual membership. I have retired now and hope to get back to see the "Birthplace" of America's greatest sport.

Thank you for all you do to carry on the legacy of baseball.

Jeff Bryant, Member Since 1985



My dad first took me to Cooperstown in 1981 when I was 10. We got out of the house to let my mom study for finals while getting her master's degree from SUNY Stony Brook. We fished all morning and toured the Hall every afternoon for a week while staying at Mr. Thayer's cabins on the shore of Lake Otsego.

In 1993, while driving back from seeing my college roommates on Cape Cod, I decided to swing through Cooperstown on the way back to Long Island. It was my lucky day as it was Reggie Jackson's Induction Weekend.

Fast forward to 2012 and my sons (Jackson and Sam) and parents (Bob and Bobby) went to Cooperstown the week leading up to Barry Larkin's induction. We were joined by my dad's

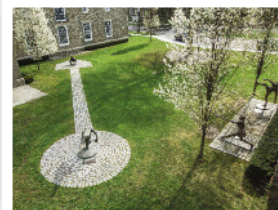
cousin Ginger and her husband, Paul, from Morris, N.Y. Paul was a driver for Induction Weekend for 20 years, and they both worked with the Haneys (of the Cooperstown Bat Company) when they were teachers.

From 2013-2018, it was just my youngest son Sam and my dad who would come up every year for the Induction Ceremony. Last year, my oldest son came as well, and 2020 was going to be a big family reunion with both my parents, Ginger, Paul, my wife Vicky, and both our sons. Unfortunately when that couldn't happen, we had to pivot and set up "Cooperstown South."

We still had hot dogs, ice cream, shaved ice, golf and fishing (although we didn't catch trout or pumpkin seed fish, just catfish). We even had "Shoeless Joe's" send down an assortment of t-shirts to supplement the shirts we got from Cooperstown

Bat Company, Mickey's Place and the Hall itself. After each sweaty activity (because Houston is much hotter than Cooperstown), we "shopped" for a new shirt from our faux Main Street. The Satchel Paige Monarchs jersey was my favorite.

One of the highlights was getting Ozzie Smith and Fergie Jenkins to "stop by" via Cameo.com.



PHOTOS BY WILD STEWART FOR NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

We missed getting to see them at the annual PLAY Ball event with Ozzie the Friday of every Induction Weekend.

Erik Nielsen
Member Since 2004



This past October (2019), I had the chance to visit the Hall of Fame, and my reaction to the experience surprised even me. Having been a baseball fan for most of my 66 years, it had always been a dream of mine, yes even a bucket list item, to go see the Hall of Fame. A big thanks to my loving wife for planning the trip around the time of my birthday last year. I can only describe my trip to the HOF as somewhat of a spiritual experience. Entering into the hall of plaques, the whole experience reminded me of entering into a “holy place.” I felt a reverence somehow created by being in the “presence” of so many of my lifetime baseball heroes. From the first inductees to the last inductees, each plaque seemed to come “alive.” Besides the Hall of Fame, we truly enjoyed the small town “village” atmosphere of Cooperstown. I highly encourage you to plan a trip to Cooperstown and the Hall of Fame. I wouldn’t be surprised if you, too, have a similar experience.

Kerry Kilgore
Member Since 2006



My wife and daughter took me to Cooperstown for the first time for Legends Weekend in 2017. I was like a kid in a candy store; I loved everything about it. I wanted to talk to the great Juan Marichal, and he was very generous with his time. For years, I wanted to talk about a game he pitched against another great pitcher, Warren Spahn. It was at the beginning of Juan’s career and toward the end of the great Spahn’s career. They battled it out for 16 innings before the great Willie Mays ended it with a home run. I asked him a number of questions, and then I asked how many pitches he threw and – without missing a beat – he answered 227. There I was in my Cardinal attire and all I could say was “WOW!” I started to walk away when he asked if I wanted to know how many Spahn threw. Naturally I said yes, and without



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

blinking, he said 201. As I was starting to leave again, he said that Warren Spahn was playing long toss in the outfield the afternoon after. It was like a dream, and my daughter snapped a number of pictures. To this day, I hold those pictures very dear – of not just with Juan but so many other Hall of Famers that weekend. But let’s be honest: It doesn’t get any better than Marichal and Spahn, unless we’re discussing the great Bob Gibson.

Martie Aboussie
Member Since 2007

Walter Johnson cap

Thanks to generous gifts from Steve L. Davidson, Jonathan Epstein, Kathy and Michael Gallichio, Joe Greene, Peter Hand, William C. Hatchett, Matthew Kamin, David L. McKinney, Gregory T. Ochs, Bob Schmidt and Stephen M. Wunderly, a cap worn by Walter Johnson in the final years of his big league career will receive much-needed conservation work.

The legendary pitcher known as “The Big Train” hung up his spikes after a stunning 21-year career that included 3,509 strikeouts, 417 wins and 110 shutouts. Johnson was one of five players elected in the Hall of Fame’s inaugural Class of 1936.

By conserving Johnson’s cap, fans can enjoy the memory and achievements of this Hall of Famer for generations to come.

Photos to be digitally preserved

Thanks to a number of generous donors, photographs from our archive will be digitally preserved and added to our online digital collection, which you can browse at collection.baseballhall.org.

They include:

- **Lou Boudreau** – Thanks to gifts from William E. Eichner, Bill Grunkemeyer, Lon Hildreth and William P. Waldron
- **Lou Brock** – Thanks to gifts from Photene Anagnostopoulos, Randy Barthelman, John Clement, Al Gordon, Pamela Henderson, Cheri L. Leachman and Benjamin J. Wright
- **Mark Buehrle** – Thanks to a gift from Peter Hand

- **Warren Giles** – Thanks to a gift from Dr. Warren K. Simpson
- **Eddie Lombardi** – Thanks to gifts from Steven Eigenberg, Art Gardella and Matthew Kamin
- **Bid McPhee** – Thanks to a gift from E. Stephen Cunerd
- **Cal Ripken Jr.** – Thanks to gifts from Raymond Angelo and Jill Roark, and Bill Haelig

WHAT YOU CAN HELP US DO

Digitally preserve historic photos of the Hall of Fame classes of 1999 through 2005

We need your help to continue our work to digitally preserve the Museum’s photo collection, which contains more than 300,000 images. You can help us to preserve the images of the Hall of Fame classes of 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. Cost to digitally preserve images of:

Class of 1999

George Brett (160 images):	.....\$650*
Orlando Cepeda (116 images):	.....\$580
Nestor Chylak (21 images):	.....\$105
Nolan Ryan (187 images):	.....\$955
Frank Selee (2 images):	.....\$10
Joe Williams	.....FUNDED
Robin Yount (99 images):	.....\$495

Class of 2000

Sparky Anderson (56 images):	.....\$280
Carlton Fisk (119 images):	.....\$615
Bid McPhee	.....FUNDED
Tony Pérez (72 images):	.....\$360
Turkey Stearnes	.....FUNDED

Class of 2001

Bill Mazerowski (65 images):	.....\$325
Kirby Puckett (43 images):	.....\$215
Hilton SmithFUNDED
Dave Winfield (100 images):\$500

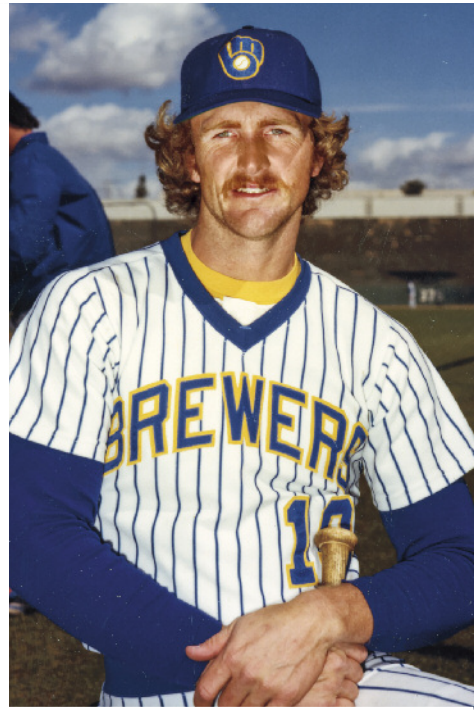
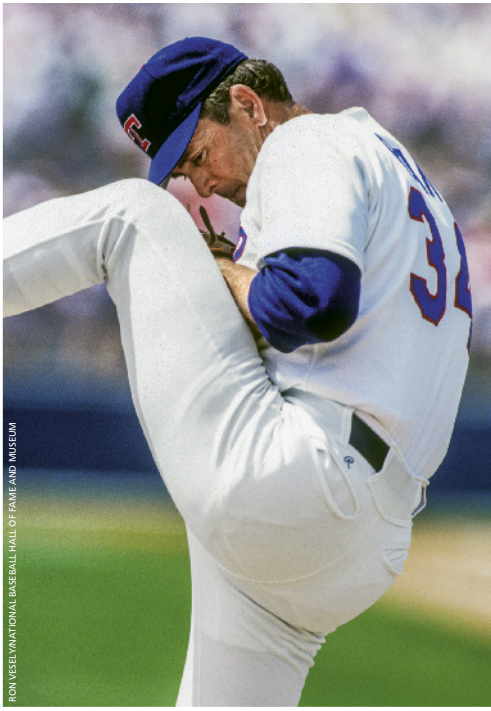
Class of 2002

Ozzie SmithFUNDED
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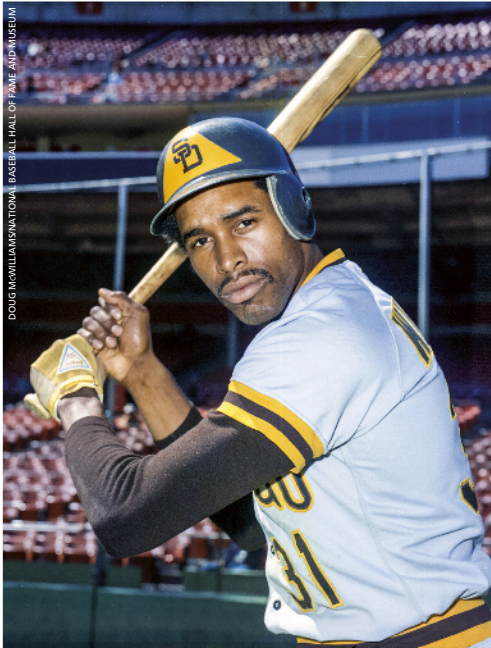
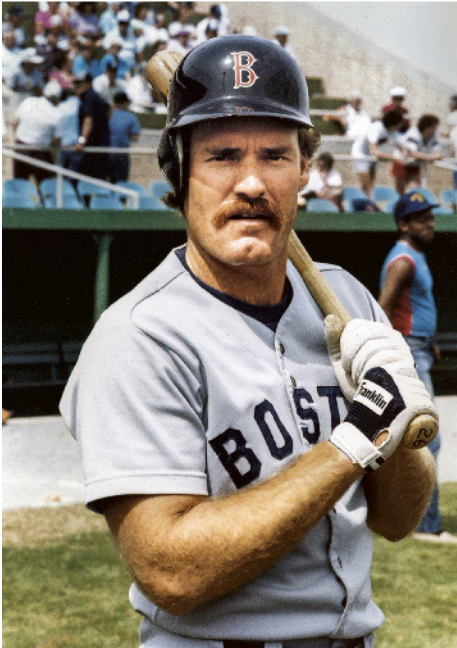
Class of 2003

Gary Carter (101 images):\$505
Eddie MurrayFUNDED

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NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



DOUG McWILLIAMS/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

LOU SAUBIRCH/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Clockwise from top left: Photos of Hall of Famers George Brett, Nolan Ryan, Robin Yount, Tony Pérez, Dave Winfield and Wade Boggs are among those from the Museum collection in need of digital preservation.

Class of 2004

- Dennis EckersleyFUNDED
- Paul MolitorFUNDED

Class of 2005

- Wade Boggs (65 images):.....\$325
- Ryne Sandberg (119 images):\$595

**30 images have already been digitally preserved thanks to a generous donation from Jewell Gould*

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Explore additional projects, including artifacts, photographs and Library documents that are in need of conservation and preservation, at our website. 📄

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Ultimate Sacrifice

Two former big leaguers, Elmer Gedeon and Harry O'Neill, were killed in action during World War II.

BY SCOTT PITONIAK

Between them, they played a total of six games in the big leagues. Harry O'Neill's Major League Baseball career lasted one inning as a defensive replacement for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1939. One game. Zero at-bats.

Elmer Gedeon's stat line wasn't much fuller. The one-time Washington Senators center fielder did get some swings in, delivering three hits and one RBI in 15 at-bats before his big league ledger was completed that same summer.

Although their brief careers could be described as "cups of coffee," O'Neill and Gedeon earned places in baseball history after they left the diamond. They became tragic figures forever linked, and their sacrifices would be the ultimate – far more significant than those listed in a box score.

Of the roughly 500 major leaguers who fought in World War II, O'Neill and Gedeon were the only two killed in combat. The deadliest conflict in human history also would claim at least 138 minor leaguers, including Billy Southworth Jr., a promising prospect and son of Hall of Fame manager Billy Southworth Sr., and two men who would posthumously be awarded Congressional Medals of Honor: Joe Pinder and Jack Lummus. While there is no record of Negro Leaguers being killed in action on historian Gary Bedingfield's exhaustive *Baseball in Wartime* website, Black semi-pro players Grady Mabry, Aubrey Stewart and Samuel Bruce are listed among the fatalities from the Second World War.

Although their basepaths never crossed,



NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Elmer Gedeon was one of two former big league players killed in action during World War II. Gedeon, an exceptional all-around athlete, played five games for the Washington Senators in 1939.

O'Neill and Gedeon had much in common. Both had been three-sport stars in college – O'Neill in baseball, football and basketball at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, and Gedeon in baseball, football and track and field at the University of Michigan, where he tied a world record in the high hurdles and was considered a prime candidate for the United States Olympic Team. Both were tall for the times – O'Neill stood 6-foot-3; Gedeon 6-foot-4. Both signed professional baseball contracts shortly after graduating from college in the spring of 1939. And both made their MLB debuts later that year.

O'Neill taught American history and coached football, baseball and basketball at Upper Darby Junior High School in suburban Philadelphia, while Gedeon returned to his college alma mater as an assistant football coach. Both became military officers – O'Neill rising to the rank of First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Gedeon earning captain's bars in the U.S. Army Air Force. Both were awarded medals for heroism. And both were 27 years old at the time of their deaths, leaving many to wonder what might have been.

Gettysburg Harry

Harry O'Neill led three different sports teams to titles at Gettysburg, but the catcher known fondly as "Porky" loved baseball best. Coached in college by Ira Plank, brother of Baseball Hall of Famer and fellow Gettysburg alum Eddie Plank, O'Neill ignited a minor bidding war between the Athletics and Senators. The Philadelphia native wound up signing a \$200-a-month contract with the hometown A's on June 5, 1939, and was immediately placed on the big league roster as a third-string catcher behind starter Frankie Hayes and veteran backup Earle Brucker.

Playing time would prove scarce. The lion's share of O'Neill's work was spent warming up pitchers in the bullpen. Finally, on July 23, he was given some mop-up duty, catching the eighth inning of a 16-3 loss to the Detroit Tigers and finishing with no plate appearances nor any fielding chances.

The next day, O'Neill and his teammates took a train to Cooperstown to participate in a "Connie Mack Day" exhibition game as part of the four-month long celebration of baseball's centennial. It marked the first time a major league club played a game at the newly constructed Doubleday Field, and O'Neill was given a surprise start. Batting eighth, he went 0-for-4. He would play in another exhibition game a week later. That would be his last action before being released that September.

The following season, O'Neill batted .238 with a home run and nine RBI in 16 games for the Pittsburgh Pirates' minor league team in Harrisburg, Pa., before being released again – this time for good. His short career reminded some of Archibald "Moonlight" Graham, the real-life ballplayer who played one inning with the 1905 New York Giants before being

immortalized in the 1982 book “Shoeless Joe” and the 1989 film *Field of Dreams*.

After baseball retired him, O’Neill resumed his teaching and coaching jobs. With the war escalating, he felt a call to duty and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Officers Training School in September 1942. While fighting in Japan 21 months later, he suffered a shrapnel wound and spent several weeks in a San Francisco hospital recuperating. He was awarded a Purple Heart and insisted on returning to the Pacific Theater after he recovered.

On March 6, 1945 – 11 days after American soldiers raised a flag atop Iwo Jima’s Mount Suribachi – O’Neill and his fellow Marines fought a day-long skirmish to secure the rest of the island, which the Allies were using as a make-shift base to launch bombers to Tokyo, 750 miles to the north. While O’Neill sought cover in a deep crater, a sniper’s bullet pierced his neck and killed him instantly. Originally buried in Iwo Jima, O’Neill’s remains later were brought to Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill, Pa.

“We are trying to keep our courage up, as Harry would want us to do, but our hearts are very sad, and as the days go on it seems to be getting worse,” his mother, Susanna, wrote in a heartfelt letter to her son’s former college football coach several weeks after receiving word of Harry’s death. “Harry was always so full of life, that it seems hard to think he is gone. But God knows best, and perhaps someday we will understand why all this sacrifice of so many fine young men.”

Michigan man

Although he was an All-American hurdler for the Wolverines, lanky Elmer Gedeon was more interested in going for base hits than gold medals. His .320 collegiate batting average and world-class speed intrigued the Senators, who signed the Cleveland native shortly after he graduated from Michigan. After smashing 14 extra-base hits in 67 games for the Senators’ farm club in Orlando, Fla., Gedeon was promoted to the majors in mid-September. His debut was non-descript – one at-bat, no hits and one putout as a late-inning replacement.

But the next day Gedeon made his first start in center field and went 3-for-4 with a walk and an RBI in a 10-9 victory against the Indians team he rooted for in his youth. Impressed Senators manager Bucky Harris told reporters Gedeon would be the team’s starting center fielder the rest of the season, but the skipper had a change of heart after watching Gedeon go hitless in the next three games. The prospect rode the bench the final two weeks.

The image shows an open baseball scorebook. The top page is titled "CUBA RACE WAY" and "PAWNEE ATHLETIC CLUB" vs "PHILADELPHIA ATHLETICS" on "JULY 24, 1939" at "DOUBLEDAY FIELD". The bottom page continues the game log with various statistics and player names.

This scorebook features the game that Harry O’Neill played at Doubleday Field on July 24, 1939.

The Senators, though, remained high on him and invited him to big league camp the following spring, where he was photographed by the *Associated Press* hurdling over first baseman Jimmy Wasdell. Gedeon spent the 1940 season with the Charlotte Hornets of the Class B Piedmont League, batting .271 with 11 home runs, 20 doubles and nine triples in 131 games. He received a late-season call-up to the Senators, but did not see any action this time around.

That fall, Gedeon returned to Michigan to coach the Wolverines receivers. In January 1941, nearly a year before Pearl Harbor, he was

drafted into the Army. He was assigned to the cavalry, but wound up transferring to the pilot training program.

During a training mission near Raleigh, N.C., on Aug. 9, 1942, the B-25 bomber he was navigating clipped some pine trees and crashed into a swamp shortly after takeoff. He suffered three broken ribs but managed to escape. When he realized one of his crewmates was missing, he crawled back into the fiery wreckage and dragged him out. Gedeon suffered severe burns to his face, back, hands and legs – some of which required skin grafts – and lost 50 pounds during his 12 weeks in the hospital. The Army awarded him the Soldier’s Medal for heroism and bravery. Despite his harrowing experience, Gedeon was eager to return to action.

Before departing for England in July 1943, he stopped in Cleveland to visit relatives. “I had my accident; my bad luck’s behind me,” he told his cousin. “It’s going to be good flying from now on.” In a wire service story published around that time, Gedeon said he planned to resume his professional baseball career “if the war doesn’t last too long.”

Ten months later, he would fly his last mission. Gedeon took off from Boreham, an airfield in Chesterfield, England, along with 35 other B-26 bombers, on April 20, 1944.

According to Robert Weintraub, author of “The Victory Season: The End of World War II and the Birth of Baseball’s Golden Era,” they were headed to Esquerdes, France, a launch site for the V-1 buzz bombs Adolf Hitler used to terrorize England. After Gedeon’s plane dropped its bombs, anti-aircraft fire ripped through its undercarriage. The plane burst into flames. Gedeon and five of his crewmates died. Gedeon initially was reported as “missing in action,” and it wasn’t until a year later his family received word that his grave had been located in a small British Army cemetery in France. His remains were returned and buried in Arlington National Cemetery. ●

Author Scott Pitoniak resides in Penfield, N.Y. His latest book is titled, “Remembrances of Swings Past: A Lifetime of Baseball Stories.”



A Slice of Heaven

New Museum exhibit pays tribute to *Field of Dreams*.

BY GABRIELLE AUGUSTINE

It has been more than three decades since the voice first whispered, “If you build it, he will come,” to Iowa farm owner Ray Kinsella in the now-classic movie *Field of Dreams*.

In August 2020, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opened *Is This Heaven?* – a temporary exhibit that allows visitors to relive the magic of the film and discover how it has become cemented in American popular culture.

Adapted into a screenplay by Phil Alden Robinson, *Field of Dreams* was based on W.P. Kinsella’s 1982 novel “Shoeless Joe” and boasted an all-star cast that included Kevin Costner, Amy Madigan, James Earl Jones, Burt Lancaster and Ray Liotta. The 1989 film follows Ray Kinsella (Costner) as he builds a baseball field amidst his corn in an attempt to understand what the mysterious voice is telling him. After Shoeless Joe Jackson and the rest of the 1919 White Sox appear for another chance to play the sport from which they were banned, Kinsella discovers – *spoilers* – that the field offers him a chance to reconnect and play catch one more time with his deceased father.

Chock-full of quotable lines, *Field of Dreams* was an immediate hit in theaters and went on to receive three Academy Award nominations. After filming wrapped, the field



This cap was among the costumes worn during the making of *Field of Dreams*. It is one of several artifacts, including an ear of corn (top) from the field and a commemorative bat (below), that are part of a new exhibit at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

in Dyersville, Iowa, was transformed from a movie set into a tourist attraction by the property owners, Don and Becky Lansing. The baseball bucket-list destination still attracts thousands of people each year for the chance to experience the magic of the site. This tangible evidence of the film’s long-lasting popularity is just part of the legacy that the Hall of Fame celebrates in the new exhibit.

Numerous artifacts from the Museum’s collection showcase the movie and its cultural impact. Visitors will discover the real-life inspiration for the film’s ballplayers, including a 1905 postcard of the Scranton Miners showing Archibald “Moonlight” Graham (who really did play just one day in the big leagues). Fans will view a copy of the novel that spurred the film and a memoir penned by Dwier Brown, the actor who played Kinsella’s father, that details his life-changing connection with the movie.

On loan from the Class A minor league Lowell Spinners, a Moonlight Graham bobblehead from the team’s *Field of Dreams* night in 2019 exemplifies the enduring affection for the film. The Lansings have also loaned their copy of the screenplay, signed by the cast and crew, as well as a ticket from participating in the car lineup during the last shot of the film.

When *Field of Dreams* first premiered, its sentimentality and story of baseball magic struck the heartstrings of filmgoers and made it an immediate hit. But in the 30 years that have passed since Ray Kinsella asked his father if he wanted “to have a catch” – as the sun set over the baseball diamond amidst the corn – the movie’s underlying themes of the importance of family and second chances, told through the lens of America’s Pastime, has cemented its legacy in popular culture. **11**

Gabrielle Augustine is a curator at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.



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

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Coming Home

Museum welcoming visitors again after pause due to pandemic.

After a pause of almost 15 weeks as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has reopened its doors in accordance with New York State's regionally focused phased reopening plan and with many enhanced health and safety procedures.

A comprehensive health and safety plan for the Museum has been developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New York State, and reviewed by a certified Industrial Hygiene Technician, to ensure cleanliness, physical distancing and reduced contact for visitors and staff.



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



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

With new safety measures in place, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum is once again welcoming visitors.

Please use the resources below to help plan your visit to the Hall of Fame, and check our website – baseballhall.org – frequently for the most up-to-date information about the Museum's status.

We hope to see you in Cooperstown soon!

Timed ticketing

To allow for physical distancing, Museum capacity will be limited. Timed admission tickets are available for purchase online and will allow visitors to reserve a specific date and time to enter the Museum, alleviating congestion in the front lobby and throughout the Museum.

Hall of Fame Members, who receive complimentary admission to the Hall of Fame, are given the opportunity to place their ticket reservation in advance of the general public.

Please visit baseballhall.org/reopening to reserve your ticket via timed ticketing.

Safety procedures

Per New York State guidelines, the use of face masks for all staff and guests is required. Free single-use masks are available at the Museum entrance for visitors who do not have one.

Within the Museum, all exhibit spaces have remained open and functional. Guests receive a rubber-tipped stylus to use when interacting with touch-screens and buttons.

Directional markers have been added to Museum spaces, along with signage reminding visitors of safety procedures. More than 25 hand sanitizing stations have also been placed throughout the Museum.

Until further notice, the Hall of Fame's larger gathering spaces – the Grandstand Theater, Bullpen Theater, Learning Center and Sandlot Kids' Clubhouse – will remain closed.

Increased cleaning and disinfection will take place both within Museum spaces and office areas, while protective clear acrylic shields have been installed at the Museum admission desk and at check-out counters within the Museum Store.

Additionally, employee spaces and schedules have been adjusted to accommodate physical distancing, with staggered arrivals and departures to limit staff overlap.


All employees are given a health screening assessment and temperature check each day prior to entering the Museum. 🚫



MILO STEWART/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM



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SAFETY LINEUP

At this time, we require all guests to follow this lineup of 9 procedures designed to protect you, your family and the Hall of Fame team during your museum visit.

1	NOT FEELING WELL	If you are not feeling well, please do not enter the Museum and plan to visit another day. You may enjoy our online content from home at baseballhall.org . To help ensure your safety our staff is being provided with daily health screenings.
2	TIMED ADMISSION TICKETS	To limit museum capacity, timed admission tickets are required for entry and can be purchased at baseballhall.org prior to arrival.
3	FACE MASKS	Per New York State guidelines, we are requiring the use of face masks for all staff and guests. Free single-use masks will be available at the Museum entrance for visitors who do not have one.
4	PHYSICAL DISTANCING	Please practice physical distancing by maintaining a minimum distance of six feet from those outside your party.
5	DIRECTIONAL MARKERS	Please follow directional markers where they appear within Museum exhibits.
6	HAND SANITIZER	Guests are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer stations positioned throughout the Museum, as well as thorough hand-washing in the restrooms.
7	ELEVATOR	Please take the stairs if you are able. The elevator is reserved for those who are unable to use the stairs and is designated for use by one visiting party at a time.
8	STYLUS	Guests will be given a rubber-tipped stylus to use when interacting with touch-screens and buttons within Museum exhibits and in the elevator. Please do not use your hands.
9	MUSEUM STORE	The Museum Store is open. A ticket to the Museum is not necessary for entry. Prior to entry, please see guidelines posted at the Museum Store.

FAMILY SERVICE

A Hall of Fame hurler recalls his father's love of country and baseball.

BY TREVOR HOFFMAN

My dad, Ed, was best known to baseball fans as the Singing Usher of Anaheim Stadium. He was a great singer, but he was also a great father and a man who served his country.

Dad had been singing professionally around the world and was about 30 years old when, in October 1942, he felt compelled to enlist in the Marine Corps to fight and protect his country during World War II. He went through MCRD (Marine Corps Recruit Depot) in San Diego and then was sent into the Pacific Theater. He made it back home three years later.

When I was a kid, it was clear how proud he was to be an American and a Marine. He was proud of his service. He fought for love of country, and he had a sense of duty to America. That part of him never wavered. From the earliest I can remember, he always flew an American flag at the house.

Dad didn't talk a ton about his service. He saw the ugliness of war. While it wasn't a long period of his life, I'm sure he was affected by some of his mates not returning home. He knew he was one of the lucky ones.

He was older when I was born, and discussion of his service would only come out when he was asked to sing the national anthem. At first, he would sing it for our Opening Day games at Little League. His connection with being a singer and the national anthem would lend itself to a conversation about his service as a Marine.

At that time, he worked as a postal clerk, which was an early shift. He'd get home at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon and head to



BRAD MANNING/NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Trevor Hoffman, second on MLB's all-time saves list with 601, has close ties to the military. His father served in the Marines during World War II and later became famous as the Singing Usher of Anaheim Stadium.

Anaheim Stadium, where he worked as an usher. He actually used to sing with Gene Autry, the owner of the Angels at the time, so that's probably how word got out that singing was in Dad's background.

He gained notoriety as the Singing Usher at Angels games, but rarely was he on the docket to do it. He would come in a pinch if the scheduled singer got stuck in traffic coming to the ballpark. Just in case, he would always have his harmonica to tune up.

When I was 8 or 9 years old, he would occasionally take me to the ballpark with him. I'd sit in the locker room with him, and then he'd go off to his post and say to me, "Just don't get in any trouble." He really let

me run around the ballpark as a kid.

My older brother, Glenn, gets the credit for Dad's first big league singing gig. He had the foresight to write into his contract with the Red Sox, as a high school senior, that if he ever made it to the big leagues, the team would fly Dad out to sing the national anthem.

Dad loved baseball, but even though Glenn and I both became big league ballplayers, it wasn't ever his agenda to get us to play. Neither of my parents were pushy, and there was never any pressure. Dad did teach us to give it our all and finish what we start. If we wanted to do something, we'd buckle down and grind at it.

Pops showed me what humility looks like. He exemplified that. You think of Marines being somewhat rigid with rules, but he was a pretty relaxed guy. He was a humble guy. The way he went about his business, he never complained and provided for his family. Those are some attributes that I've tried to emulate and pass on to my kids.

If my dad had been around for my Hall of Fame election, I think he would have been proud of me, not only for the recognition, but because I did things the right way – that I honored the game. And he would have been so smitten being able to sit on a rocking chair and smoke a cigar on the back porch of the Otesaga Hotel, alongside the legends of the game.

Maybe it's coincidence that baseball brought me back to San Diego, but because Pops spent some time here as a recruit, this is where we would vacation as a family when I was a kid. Whenever we had the chance to hook up a camper to the back of the car, we'd drive down from Orange County to vacation on the beaches in San Diego. I feel lucky to have made this city my home and to have played so many years for the Padres, an organization that so often recognizes the military.

To me, the military represents freedom and sacrifice. I'm thankful for the service of my dad during World War II, and for everyone who has served, including some who have given the ultimate sacrifice for us to enjoy this great country. 🇺🇸

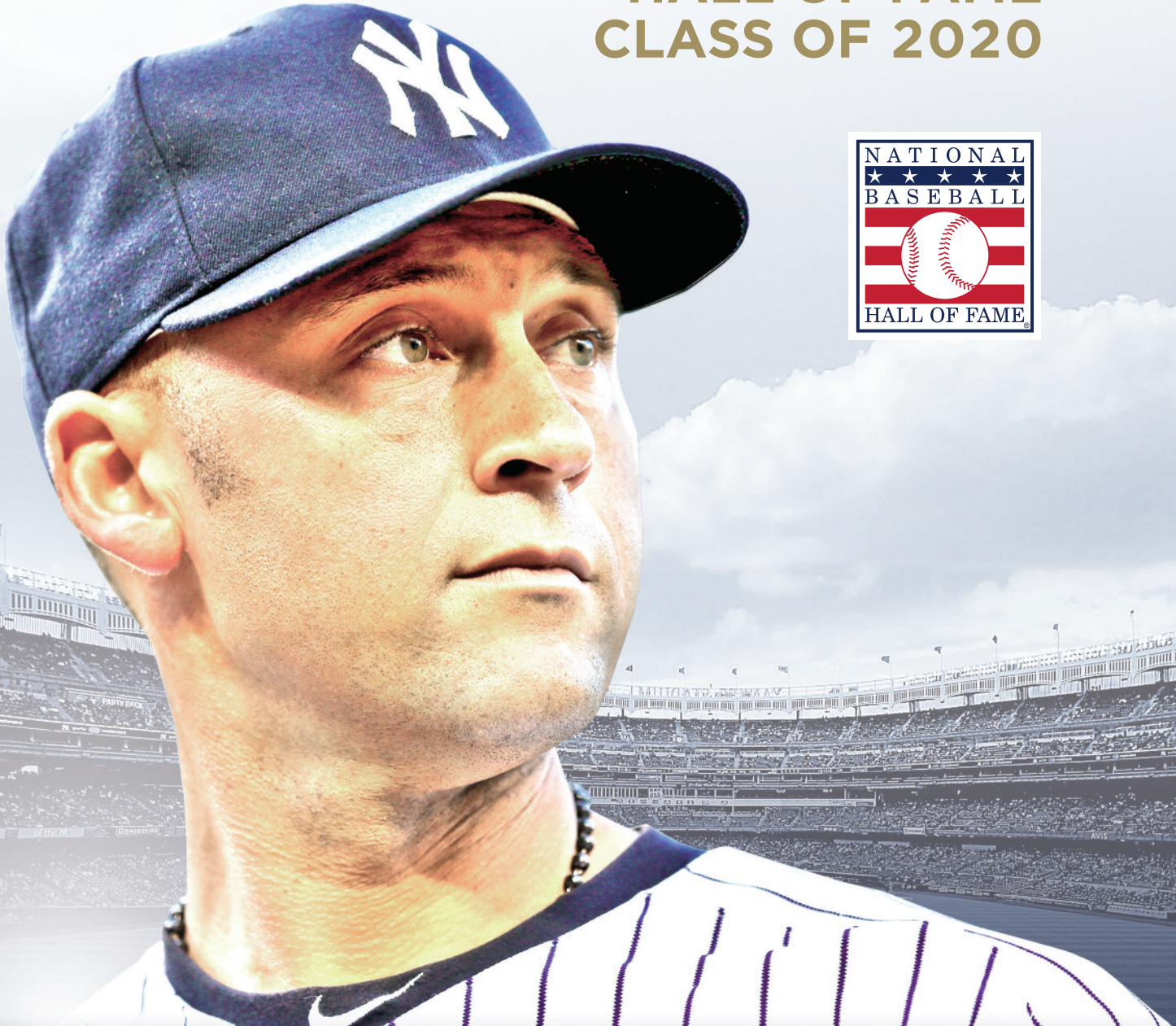
Trevor Hoffman was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2018.

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Hayfields dot the rolling hills of Cooperstown at the northern end of Otsego Lake during a summer evening.