

Post-Induction Media Availability 9/8/21

Craig Muder

Hello, everybody. My name is Craig Muder. I'm the Director of Communications for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and we want to welcome you to the 2021 Hall of Fame Post-Induction Ceremony interview sessions. All three of our inductees Derek Jeter, Ted Simmons and Larry Walker will be participating along with Donald Fehr, who spoke today about Marvin Miller. And Don is going to go first today. This link will remain live throughout all of our four interviews, so please stay on the call as we transition from one inductee to another. We'll begin shortly with Don. To accommodate as many questions as possible, please limit your inquiry to one question apiece, no follow ups and that question should pertain only to the induction experience. To ask a question, please hit the raise hand button on your screen and wait to be called on so we can unmute you. A reminder the transcripts of these calls will be available within 48 hours at baseballhall.org/media-info, that's baseballhall.org/media-info. All right, we're gonna get started. So if folks have questions, please have your hand raised. Now we're going to start a question from Sweeny Murti. Sweeney. If you unmute yourself, please.

Sweeny Murti

Thanks, Craig. Hi, Don. I wonder what you thought about the idea what you think Marvin would think about the idea that he's being inducted in front of a couple of Commissioners on the panel. And considering all the battles he had with commissioners along the way, just standing in front of that audience and having that honor?

Don Fehr

I think he wouldn't have thought about it very much for a different reason than you might think. I was privileged to spend some time with most of the Hall of Famers the last 36 hours. And to a man, they were proud, they were excited. They wanted to see this he was their guy, and to be with them, I think would have swamped out all other considerations. I don't think it would have mattered, certainly not negatively.

Craig Muder

Okay, this question comes from Ken Schott. Ken if you want to unmute yourself.

Ken Schott

Thanks, Craig. Don, why do you think Marvin's family was not excited for him to be inducted posthumously?

Don Fehr

Well, I think the situation was basically that he expressed that to them, way back when and they were honoring what they believed his wishes to be. I think they're both pleased. I think that they believe that the recognition is long delayed and well deserved. Well deserved.

Craig Muder

Again, a reminder, if you have a question for Don Fehr, please hit the raise hand button. This question is from Fago Franklin. Fago, please unmute yourself.

Fago Franklin

Hey, how you doing today?

Don Fehr

I'm all right. It's a good day.

Fago Franklin

Congratulations, congratulations. On what does it mean to you to overcome so many obstacles in their family get to where you need to be exactly right here in Cooperstown?

Don Fehr

I think that Marvin situation was for obvious reasons unique. He was an executive, I believe he had more influence on the game than any other individual off the field in the second half of the 20th century. I don't think there's much doubt about that. But the nature of labor relations is adversarial. And I think that the early years were difficult, as were some of the later years when I was in his role. And I think it took a long time for people to come around to the notion that this was the appropriate thing to do. But having been there, I have no doubt that it was the appropriate thing to do.

Craig Muder

Next question comes from Owen Perkins of the Daily Planet. Owen please unmute yourself.

Owen Perkins

Don, with what you just mentioned about the adversarial relationship. How much more meaningful is it for major league baseball and what does it mean for Major League Baseball to take that step and put the leader of the labor movement for baseball into the Hall of Fame?

Don Fehr

I think it is a, a recognition that he had, first of all enormous influence. Secondly, that his job was to protect and defend and enhance the situation of the players. The players, after all, are not only the most important employees, they're the products here to, and that he won through a lot of hard work, a lot of depth negotiating, and an enormous amount of conversation and discussion with players, their unending trust. And if I can say it this way, a lot of them simply loved the man. I got a bit of a taste of it, working for him and then working with him after that, but I think that probably puts it in its place. Sometimes in organizations, the immediate Riders of history are not the ones that you look to down the road when perspective sets in.

Craig Muder

We have time for one or two more questions, if anybody has more questions for Don Fehr. Okay, so now we're going to let Don go then and next up, we're going to have Ted Simmons, so please hang out here on this link and we'll have Ted Simmons on shortly.

Craig Muder

Okay, everyone, we're back with Ted Simmons now. Same setup, as we did with Don Fehr. So if you have a question, please hit the raise hand button.

Craig Muder

Ted, I want to start just kind of asking you what did you feel like on that stage? What was it like to look out on that field and know that you were a Hall of Famer?

Ted Simmons

It was pretty special after I finished with the speech, but I just tell talking to Larry Walker a moment ago, I said, you know, only felt this morning only felt like this one other time in my life. He said was that I said this morning, I woke up I felt like the morning of the seventh game of the world series with that kind of anxiety and that kind of anticipation, which at this point is all gone. But I recognize the feeling this morning happened one other time in my entire professional life, and it was the morning of a seventh game of World Series 1982 Milwaukee and St. Louis. I felt the very same way this morning.

Craig Muder

We're going to start with a question from Sweeny Murti. Sweeney go ahead and please unmute yourself,

Sweeney Murti

Hi Ted Congratulations. You chose to end your speech in a way that I don't know a lot of other people have with the Beatles lyric.

Ted Simmons

Yeah.

Sweeny Murti

And I'm curious as to why that particular lyric and how long that's kind of been staying sticking with you in your mind and why you chose it?

Ted Simmons

My wife and I have been together a long time very long time. You can look that up I won't disclose it. But we go back to that era and Abbey Road, the end, Beatles were raging. And I wouldn't call myself a Beatles freak or nutbag that way. But that lyric has been with us a very, very long time. And when I started contemplating the speech, I knew in one form or another, when it got time to talk about Mariann, that lyric was gonna play.

Craig Muder

Next question is from Fago Franklin. Fago please unmute yourself.

Fa Franklin

Hey, how you doing? What does it mean to you that you had so much of a positive influence on and off the man when you were run out when you were a player, as well as what you have done for the community?

Ted Simmons

Well, you know, when I was interacting with players back in those days, I mean, I've always felt, you know, what information I had, or come to understand and feel comfortable with and confident about. It wasn't really my, you know, information, it was like, to be shared with everybody. And so, you know, I had a knack for, you know, making things clear quickly, in ways that people could get it. And so I always felt it was almost necessary. If I knew or understood, or got some insight, I felt responsible to convey that people who could use it in the same way I did. So I was always that way. And then, of course, I make, I assume you're referencing the art collection, my wife and I have just delivered to St. Louis Art Museum. That was a way for us to give back to that community, who had done so much for us having come from the Detroit area, and that community adopted us. And so when you interact with the community, you have similar responsibility. And so it's connected that way. That kind of transfer that connection is related in a way.

Craig Muder

Our next question comes from Tyler Kepner. Tyler, please unmute yourself.

Tyler Kepner

Ted, fantastic speech. It was that was, bravo to you.

Ted Simmons

Thank you.

Tyler Kepner

You mentioned the breadth of your career, including your days as an executive General Manager, and so on. And Derek is going on that path now too. How do you how did you find that in terms of fulfillment, compared to your playing career? And how do you think he, you know, we'll, we'll find it as the years go on?

Ted Simmons

Well, he'll find it on his own path, but the paths he ends up taking will be very similar to mine, I came to a conclusion, after my playing days, were over that, at that crossroads, I had decided, you're either going to stay in this uniform, and go on and become a coach or manager or something, you know, and remain on the field, which meant stay in the uniform. I've been in a uniform since I was, you know, nine years old, and the league programs and spent my entire life in one. And I had come to the conclusion I wanted out of that. And so I went to the left side, which was the administrative side, which put me on the path of the executive side, the inner workings of baseball and found that hugely stimulating, even as every bit as much as my, you know, my playing career was now there's nothing like plan. There's nothing like standard home plate, knocking that bond, hitting that but you know, ball on the nitro zone

and watch it go 400 feet, there is nothing better than that. I don't have any illusions. But the other side, it opened me up to the whole industry, to the whole baseball community. And I found out who the scouts were, who they, you know, what they thought and where they were. And then the same thing with the general manager side, you, it opens up in a way that you can't ever dream of seeing as a player. And so once I started down that administrative path, as opposed to staying on the field in uniform, I knew it was the right thing for me. And I know, you know, Derek is so stimulated in so many different ways, and seen so much, you know, he's like me, he knows nothing better than playing. Nothing better than knocking that ball But he's looking for new stimulation and you can see it all over him and he's gonna have success there. Clearly.

Craig Muder

We got time for one or two more questions. Our next one comes from Owen Perkins. Owen please unmute yourself.

Owen Perkins

That said, that was a really powerful comments you made about Marvin Miller – among the most powerful I can remember about another inductee. Has that was that relationship there from your playing days and were those values and that that side of the game, something that mattered to you as a player? And can you talk about how you got involved in that aspect of the game?

Ted Simmons

Yeah, well, back in those days, when, you know, the reserve clause was in full, you know, fly. I mean, complete. It was there were no, no in or around it. It ruled the day. And the pressure to be, for instance, a player rep, or even an alternate representative in the Players Association, that very dangerous place to be. And so when you look back in those early days, and you see Torre, you see Seaver and you see Gaylord, and you see those guys as the player reps with reason, because they could stand up to it, knowing that the management side of baseball would hurt them last. And so you didn't see up and coming young people who were vulnerable to begin with in those roles early. And so it was almost a rite of passage for the next guy who was like, armed and serious and talented. So he couldn't be as vulnerable as some of the others. And so it's almost something that is not thrust upon you. But you're exposed to early and the responsibility is given to you. I heard it from Dal Maxvill. I heard from Joe Torre who were both on the labor side of that whole issue. In my early days with the Cardinals, they were the guys, and there's a reason they were the guys, they could stand up to the management side and survive it.

Craig Muder

And with that, we're gonna let Ted go. Thank you so much, Ted. Next up, we'll be Larry Walker. We'll start that in just a minute.

Craig Muder

And we'll begin with Larry Walker here in a minute. A reminder that, again, to accommodate as many questions as possible, we're going to ask you to limit yourself to one question without a follow up, and you have that question pertain only to the induction experience.

Craig Muder

Alright Larry you all set?

Larry Walker

Yes Sir.

Craig Muder

Alright, let's get started. First question comes from Frederic Daigle. Fred, please unmute yourself.

Frederic Daigle

Yes, thank you. Congratulations again, Larry.

Larry Walker

Thanks.

Frederic Daigle

You told many times in the past few months, that you don't feel like a Hall of Famer, but now you are out it, did it sink in well, you were on the day there and I saw you taking pictures or video the crowd and so how did it feel today to be a Hall of Famer?

Larry Walker

Well, it was you know, I woke up this morning. I went to bed about 11 o'clock last night and I woke up this morning at 1am. So there was a lot on my mind the whole morning and leading up to it. And I even scribbled out some things on my speech this morning when I was just laying on the sofa just reading it again and kept changing things four hours before my speech and I was changing things. So, um, but you know, it went good. I did better than I thought. I thought I was gonna cry some. Even when I practiced at home in front of my kids, I, I cried a bit so I wanted to hold it together as best as I could. And fortunately, I was able to do it.

Craig Muder

The next question is from Patrick Saunders. Patrick, please unmute yourself.

Patrick Saunders

Hi there. Congratulations again.

Larry Walker

Thanks, Patrick.

Patrick Saunders

The question many of us are wondering SpongeBob Square Pants lapel pin, your idea somebody else's idea? How did that come to fruition?

Larry Walker

Well, I guess, with the shirt that I wore on the phone call obviously, got a lot of attention and that shirts hanging in the Hall of Fame right now. So it's, I had a lot of other people telling me I should have done something more. So this is what I decided to do to limit it to just a little bit and I think I can now retire my sponge bob. A little episode that I have. It's not like I sit at home and watch a bunch of on TV. It's just a shirt I grabbed from a golf tournament that I played it so it was it turned out to be funny, and I guess it hopefully added a little humor to the to the evening.

Craig Muder

The next question comes from Stu Cohen. Stu, please unmute yourself.

Stu Cohen

Hey, Larry, I'm sure on a day today and yesterday, lots of memories are coming back. Do you have one memory from your days in Montreal that stands out above the rest?

Larry Walker

Well, it's, you know, if you talk about my career, I always remember making it to the playoffs. And you know, you don't make it to the playoffs if you don't play that first game. So that first game against the Giants is the one that always stands out up there for me, I might have had other better games and things like that. But that number one, game number one at bat, that whole feeling of stepping into a major league batter's box and playing a major league game against major league players, you know, and just it's, it's never forgotten.

Craig Muder

Next question is from Owen Perkins. Owen please unmute yourself.

Owen Perkins

Hey, Larry, congratulations and great speech. I wanted to ask you kind of a multiple part question. You can choose the scar part of it if you want. But did you know what when do you know what the inscription is going to say? And what did you think of that? And also just is there something in your career that you felt like made you the person that you were on that stage today? And finally, just what was the most emotional part of this day for you?

Larry Walker

Well, I guess it's been an emotional day for me to remember all three questions. Just ask might be tough to do. So. I can't even remember the first one look at me, I'm just I'm serious too like everything. You know, the whole day, it was like I see I when I set up on the stage, my feet haven't touched the ground. And that's been for the whole time I've gotten here to Cooperstown. And I guess we can go back farther than that. But the whole experience on being here and, and being you know, just true to myself up there. You know, I'm when I say I'm an average guy in my speeches, I'd like to really, I would describe myself as that. I can go on and get along and talk with everybody. The first day here that we walked down Main Street of Cooperstown net, some people signed some autographs. And that's just who I am. So I don't know if that even came close to the questions that you just asked. But here I am rambling. Thank you one question layer was much of plaque. All the plaque. Yes. There you go. Yeah, never seen the plaque never saw the writing what it said or anything where that when those things are

brought out on the stage. That's the first time we see him and know what's on him. So pretty neat thing I know they read it. Once again, I'm getting ready to do that speech and my head's in outer space. So I can't remember what it what it said on it.

Craig Muder

We've got time for one or two more questions. Next one comes from Thomas Harding. Thomas, please unmute yourself.

Thomas Harding

Yeah, first of all, the SpongeBob Square Pants lapel pin. Is that custom? Or is that something you ended up buying or how did that work?

Larry Walker

Well, I just answered that a second ago. But you know, it was a spin off from the shirt that I wore for the phone call. And I think if you go to Amazon, you can probably order one if you need one.

Craig Muder

And the last question is gonna come from Ken Schott. Ken, please unmute yourself.

Ken Schott

Larry, congratulations. What you mentioned about the Montreal Expos and you want to see a team in Montreal again. What was the experience like playing in Montreal and how disappointing was the way that 94 season ended? Because of the strike?

Larry Walker

Well, you know, Montreal, it was, like I say it was where it all started. And I had many great times up there. Like any team that doesn't win, you wish it could have been that way to where we could have won and you Get your wish that 94 season didn't end and who knows baseball might still exist in Montreal to this day. I've said that, you know, time and time again. So, you know, but I guess it was a, it was my big league team. It was a team I signed with the team that gave me that \$1500 bonus. So I was loyal to them until the deal was over, you know, but unfortunately, you know, it's a it's a business. And we all understand that. So, you know, I had to move on from there eventually. But it was a great time up there. And I now look at I forgot the second part of your question already, too.

Craig Muder

Thanks Larry, we'll let you get back to the hotel. So thanks for taking some time with us.

Larry Walker

You got it, thank you guys.

Craig Muder

Next we'll have Derek Jeter. Just a reminder that please hit the raise hand button. If you have questions and please limit yourself to one question and make it about the induction experience. Our first question comes from Brian Hoch, Brian, please unmute yourself.

Brian Hoch

Hey, Derek, congratulations. You gave a iconic speech to close the old Stadium in 2008. How would you compare today's experience and just the preparation that went into making this speech?

Derek Jeter

Ah, man, so it's a little bit different. This one's a little bit longer, Brian so and also you trying to capture 20 plus year professional career, which is difficult to do, it's impossible to do it in a short period of time. So I tried to touch on a few things that I thought was important. But, you know, like I said, I saw a lot of people I got to reach out to personally and make sure they understand how I feel about them and the important role that they played in my career.

Craig Muder

Next question comes from Sweeny Murti, Sweeney please unmute yourself.

Sweeny Murti

Hi, Derek. Congratulations.

Derek Jeter

Thank you.

Sweeny Murti

There have been a couple of times in your career where you only admitted you were nervous after the fact. And I'm thinking about your last game at the stadium or your 3010. So now that this is over, how did you feel going into it? Ted Simmons was telling us he only felt this way before game seven a World Series. So how did that go? And what was it like for you actually having fans there? Because that was a possibility only a few months ago that it wasn't?

Derek Jeter

Yeah, I think, let me start with, you know, being unsure of what the ceremony will actually look like. You know, that took some time. Because, you know, originally we were going to, we're going to do it, and it was going to be in an auditorium and there's no fans going to be there. Your family couldn't even be there. And then to actually have the fans show up today. Look, I mean, it's in the middle of the weekend, Jewish holiday, you know, COVID kids are in school. So to have this number of fans show up. I really appreciate it. But when it comes to the speech, you know, I wasn't nervous coming here today. You know, you start listening to, you know, the other Speeches, speeches before you and you're looking at their family members, and they're starting to show some tears. And, you know, I tried not to establish long high contact with my family when I was speaking because I didn't want to want to lose it. So yeah, I'd say there's butterflies right before you go up, but I wouldn't say I was necessarily nervous.

Craig Muder

Next question comes from Tyler Kepner. Tyler. Please unmute yourself.

Tyler Kepner

Hey, there, congratulations.

Derek Jeter

Thank you Tyler.

Tyler Kepner

You've been an all-star, you've been a superstar for a long time. But this is obviously the ultimate and now that it's here, and you've had a chance to be around the other Hall of Famers be part of that team? Is there a different feeling that sets in a different kind of reality for you than you've ever had before?

Derek Jeter

I think it will. Tyler when I leave here, because we have the dinner with just the Hall of Famers. And, you know, that's something that I'm really looking forward to, you know, I've got a chance to, to speak to a few of them not in a big group setting and meet their families. But I think At least that's what I've been told as well. That's when it's going to really hit you is when you're in there, and you're having the dinner and it's the only members of the Hall of Fame.

Craig Muder

Our next question comes from Alex Brasky. Alex, please unmute yourself. Alex, can you hear me? Alright, we're gonna move on and take another question from Ken Schott, Ken please unmute yourself.

Ken Schott

Hey, Derek, congratulations.

Derek Jeter

Thank you.

Ken Schott

I know you played briefly here in the capital region with the Albany Colonie Yankees, do they see those fans out there? Just the emotion and that the love that they gave you? How special was is that feeling?

Derek Jeter

Yeah, you know, look, we've grown up together, you know, a lot of these fans. I debuted when I was 20 years old, I retire when I was 40. I mean, these 20 years and you know, I've said it before about Yankee fans, they watch every day, you know, they live and die with, you know, how the Yankees perform on the field. So they've seen me grow up. And you know, I think, you know, I've been a part of, you know, their, their childhood, to their adulthood. And, you know, the Yankee fans appreciate their history. That's what makes it so special. That's what makes the organization so special. So, to have that number of people come out here, like I said, All things considered. You know, I'm glad I had a chance to share that experience with the fans because they're a big reason why I'm here today.

Craig Muder

And next question, we're going to take it from Dylan Kuhn, Dylan please unmute yourself.

Dylan Kuhn

Hey, Derek, I know it's a chant you've heard many times in your life, but I guess just How good was it to be able to hear that Derek Jeter chant today here in Cooperstown?

Derek Jeter

Yeah, it felt good, man. You forget about how good it feels. You know, it's been a while. You know, the chant. I think the last time I heard that many people chant it, you know, is that a game? You know, maybe one of our maybe it was 96 reunion possibly. So yeah, that always feels good, man. It's you know, you play the game for a long time and, and ever have that many people chanting your names. It's a special feeling. It's humbling. Right, but it's a special feeling and you tend to miss it when you're not here anymore.

Craig Muder

We've got time for one or two more questions. Next one's from Dylan Balsamo, Dylan, please unmute yourself.

Dylan Balsamo

Derek, congratulations. Again, not to say I know everyone has. No, we talked about the fan support here today. But you very clearly had a lot of friends here today, former teammates, we also have Michael Jordan here today. What are those relationships in the fact that you were able to see all those people here today say about you, and the success you've had in the relationship? You formed your career?

Derek Jeter

Well, I you know, look, I'm very, I have a very good group of close friends. And they come from all walks of life. And yeah, I was I was lucky that a few of them were able to make it I no more wanted to come but all things considered and circumstances. You know, people were here in spirit. But you know, anytime you have people that you've played with for a long time you've looked up to, you've shared stories with and experiences with and, and for them to come out and show that support. You know, one of the special things about today is you get a chance to share with your family, you get a chance to share with your friends, because they know more about you than most other people.

Craig Muder

And our last question is going to come from Malaika Bobino. Malaika please unmute yourself.

Malaika Bobino

Congratulations, Derek. Thank you very much. So you've reached the pinnacle of your career. Obviously, this closes the chapter as you as a player, how satisfied are you with that? And what's next?

Derek Jeter

Man? I you know, it's, uh, of course, I'm satisfied the right this is as high as you can go in terms of playing career. So it doesn't get any more special than this. There's no other awards or accolades you can receive. So from a career playing career standpoint, man, I guess yeah, it does close the chapter. What am I looking forward to next? Obviously, what I'm doing down in Miami, but also family, and I'm,

you know, I've talked about my parents quite a bit. And, you know, I'm looking forward to, you know, raising my girls now and being there to support whatever dreams they have. So, I think, you know, those are the two things that I'm looking forward to most now.

Malaika Bobino

Congratulations.

Derek Jeter

Thank you very much.

Craig Muder

Thank you, Derek, very much. Thank you. Quick reminder, the transcripts of these calls were available within 48 hours at baseballhall.org/media-info. Also, the texts of the plaques are also available on paper in the media center here at the Clark Sports Center. And lastly, we'll remind you that the 2022 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is scheduled for July 24. Thanks everybody for joining us.