

The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

December, 2015

In the News

Presidential Medal of Freedom Award

On November 17, former Birmingham Black Baron **Willie "Say Hey" Mays** was one of 17 persons to received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

The **Presidential Medal of Freedom** is the Nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.



Mays is the 11th baseball player to be honored with the Medal of Freedom (along with Yogi Berra, who was also named a recipient). Here are the other baseball players who have been honored:

- **Hank Aaron**
- **Ernie Banks**
- Roberto Clemente (posthumously)
- Joe DiMaggio
- Stan Musial
- **Buck O'Neil**
- Frank Robinson
- **Jackie Robinson** (posthumously)
- Ted Williams

"This is an extraordinary group," President Obama said. *"Even by the standards of Medal of Freedom winners, this is a class act. What an incredible tapestry this country is and what a great blessing to be in a nation where individuals as diverse, (from) wildly different backgrounds, can help to shape our dreams, how we live together, help define justice and freedom and love. They represent what's best in us and we are very, very proud to welcome them today."*

The theme from *E.T.* played as the President went through and greeted each winner one more time. Mays stood and applauded when Barbara Streisand



was announced. Who knew he was a fan of *"Funny Girl?"*

Berra and Mays with their 1954 MVP plaques
Giants CEO Larry Baer congratulated Mays on the honor, *"As everyone knows, Willie is a national treasure and one of the greatest players in the history of baseball,"* Baer said in a statement. *"I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to recognize Willie for his endless contributions to our national pastime."*

Many attendees at the 2013 Newark **Jerry Malloy NL Conference** will recall the wonderful experience we had at the **Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center**, located on the campus of Montclair State University. It was truly *"déjà vu all over again!"*

The Jerry Malloy Conference is going to La Crosse, Wisconsin in July

Rated #1 by **AARP** magazine as the "Most Livable City" with a population under 100,000, La Crosse is nestled between majestic bluffs and the mighty Mississippi, providing the visitor with splendid scenery, a vast array of outdoor activities, and culture in the form of theater, symphony, and art. And of course, there will be baseball. The Conference, which runs from July 7th (Satchel Paige's birthday) to July 9th, will feature a trip to the local Northwoods League affiliate **La Crosse Loggers** on Friday night and a banquet cruise on the **La Crosse Queen** paddlewheeler on Saturday night. The Queen is a modern day replica of the grand river boats that plied the Mississippi River and frequently called on the port of La Crosse in the late 19th Century. She is one of the few authentic Mississippi River paddlewheel river boats still in operation in the U.S. today.



Hotel accommodations at reduced rates will be available at the brand new Hampton Inn, conveniently located in downtown La Crosse, just two blocks from scenic Riverside Park.

Our site coordinator for the 19th Jerry Malloy Conference is economics professor Dr. Michael Hauptert, with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. You may reach him at: mhauptert@uwlax.edu

Expect more details and a **Registration form** in the next few weeks. Don't forget to **SAVE THE DATES**.

This year we have a new scholarship. Check out: <http://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/15/10/p5902871/application-period-begins-for-the-jimmie-crutchfield-memorial-scholarsh>

Satchel Paige's 110th birthday anniversary.

In a recent conversation with Satchel's oldest son Robert, he and I are open to celebrating his father's **110th Birthday** in 2016. If you would like to hear some untold stories about his dad and mom for your company's diversity program, collegiate black history month, or your local library or museum, please contact the editor. Those who attended this year's conference in Pittsburgh, were treated by Robert to a rare insight into the life of black baseball's most prolific pitcher and statesman. Call, text or email me for details and what open dates are available.



company's diversity program, collegiate black history month, or your local library or museum, please contact the editor. Those who attended this year's conference in Pittsburgh, were treated by Robert to a rare insight into the life of black baseball's most prolific pitcher and statesman. Call, text or email me for details and what open dates are available.

My visit to the Negro Southern League Museum by Bryan Steverson

The Negro Southern League Museum opened recently in Birmingham, AL. Strategically located in the heart of the city's Parkside District, the museum borders Regions Field, home of the Chicago White Sox Class AA affiliate, the Birmingham Barons. Containing items from the collection of **Dr. Layton Revel**, founder and Director of the **Center for Negro League Baseball Research**, the museum houses our nation's *largest* collection of *original* Negro League baseball artifacts in more than 8,000 square feet. Housed within its attractive facade are the original uniforms of many former players, including Hall of Famers **Satchel Paige** and **Willie Wells**. Other unique, one-of-a-kind displays include baseballs (over 1500), bats, pictures, contracts and well written legends to assist the visitor as they transcend the historic eras. An active research center is on-site.

Recently a friend and I visited the museum. It was an amazing and inspiring experience. As we entered, classes of young folks were being taught about the leagues and the broader history they represent. Educating young minds while rekindling the memories of others, are part of the mission of this significant baseball treasure. Director **Natasha Rogers** has outlined strategic plans for further interaction and growth. Curator **Toby Richards** is experienced and a true resource.

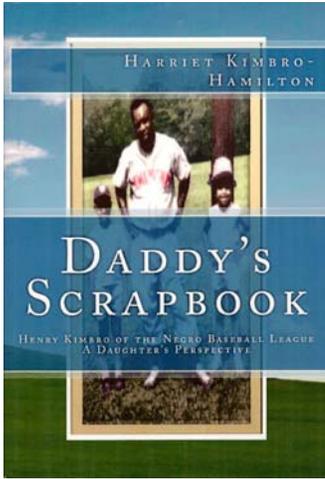


We had a memorable experience and recommend this museum to any baseball or Negro Leagues fan as well as anyone wanting to know more about civil rights and the contributions of these players. For visitors, **Regions Field** and the Negro Southern League Museum (NSLM) are only a short 15 minute walk from the infamous **16th Street Baptist Church** and the **Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**. I encourage all to visit and likewise enjoy a rewarding day.

The NSLM is located at 120 Sixteenth Street South, Birmingham, AL 35203.

Call 205) 581-3040 for more information.

Daddy's Scrapbook: Henry Kimbro of the Negro Baseball League, A Daughter's Perspective by **Dr. Harriet Kimbro-Hamilton.**



Inspired by a text in James Riley's *The Biographical Encyclopedia of the Negro Baseball Leagues*, when Kimbro was described as an "evil man," his daughter wanted to present an honest and candid side of this great man.

From personal interactions with Mr. Kimbro, I found

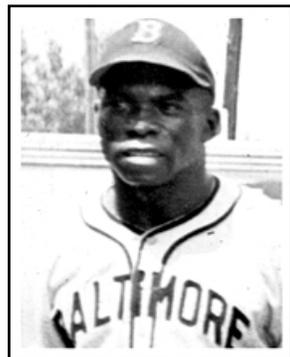
him to be a man of few words and often in deep thought. The hard-nosed competitor played in 10 East-West All-Stars games. Only superstars, **Buck Leonard**, **Alec Radcliff**, and **Josh Gibson** played in more games, a testament to his superior talent.

His career spanned from 1936 to 1953, as an outfielder and manager for the **Washington Elite Giants**, **Baltimore Elite Giants**, **New York Black Yankees**, **Birmingham Black Barons**, **Philadelphia Stars**, and the **Brooklyn Brown Dodgers**.

Kimbro was a teammate of future Brooklyn Dodger stars **Roy Campanella**, **Jim Gilliam** and **Joe Black** while playing for the Elite Giants. But he was too old for the major leagues by the time the color barrier was broken.

Dr. Kimbro-Hamilton is an Associate Professor at Tennessee State University. She has received three national awards from prestigious organizations like the Women's Sports Foundation, the National Association of Girls and Women in Sport which presented her with the Dr. Nell C. Jackson Award, and was inducted into the Temple University League for Entrepreneurial Women Hall of Fame.

For your copy of this insightful book contact her at: harrico@hotmail.com or just call 205-344-0332. Add this reflection to your library.

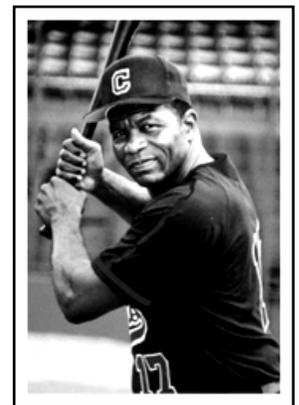
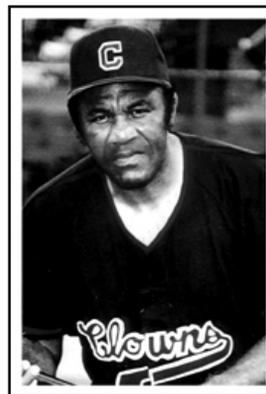
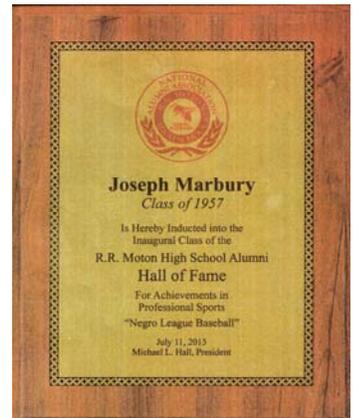


Joseph & Rendon Marbury inducted into the Robert Russa Moton High School Hall of Fame in Birmingham, Alabama

The Moton High Hall of Fame (MHOF) award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to their community or society through distinguished careers while exhibiting the qualities of **character**, **citizenship**, and **loyalty**.

This year's inaugural inductees were as follows: Willie Lewis Cooper - 1959; Arthur L. Kelly -1955; Dr. Carl Harris Marbury - 1953; Joseph Marbury - 1957; Rendon Marbury - 1955; Nathan Martin - 1956; Ronnie Rose - 1965; and Florence Z. Hosea - 1953 (Posthumously).

Joseph "Bull" Marbury joined the Negro Leagues in 1957, and played the outfield for the **Indianapolis Clowns** until 1958. He hit over .300 both seasons. His brother **Rendon**, known as "**Jug**" also played in the Negro Leagues, as an infielder for the Clowns and the **Birmingham Black Barons**. Also a .300 hitter.



Congratulations to Joe (left) and Rendon (right) Marbury for a well deserved honor.



"If I had one wish, I would get on that Big Red bus with my teammates, and take one last

drive..." Rendon Marbury, Jr.

Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A **BIRTHDAY CARD**.

DECEMBER

2ND - HENRY ELMORE - 74
3RD - **BILL HAYDEN - 91**
4TH - **TED TOLES, JR. - 90**
6TH - BILL LITTLE - 81
7TH - ENRIQUE MAROTO - 83
9TH - CLIFFORD "QUACK" BROWN - 85
14TH - HENRY SAVERSON - 86
16TH - JOE MARBURY - 77
21ST - CHARLES WELLS - 84, PAUL CASANOVA - 74
23RD - MAYNARD JORDAN - 87
25TH - JOHN MITCHELL - 78
26TH - **ORLANDO O'FARRILL - 93**, REGGIE HOWARD 81
27TH - JIM COBBIN - 81

JANUARY

9TH - FRANK MARSH - 85
21ST - **PORTER REED - 93**, JIM ROBINSON - 86
26TH - RON TEASLEY - 89
27TH - SAM TAYLOR - 87
28TH - TOMMY TAYLOR - 78
30TH - LONNIE HARRIS - 85



FEBRUARY

4TH - ERNIE NIMMONS - 86
5TH - HANK AARON - 82
9TH - MIKE HOULEMARD - 83
20TH - **WALTER MCCOY - 93**
25TH - **MONTE IRVIN - 97**

SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

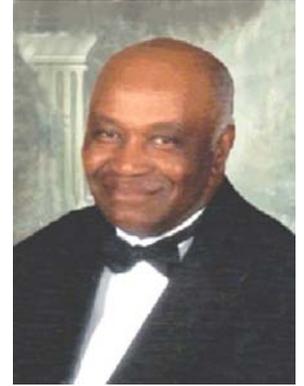
Larry Lester Co-chair, LarryLester42@gmail.com
Dick Clark Co-chair (in spirit)

The Courier is a quarterly newsletter published by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR); in March, June, September and December. Inquiries, submissions and research requests can be sent to Larry Lester. Back issues can be found [HERE](#).

To receive your personal copies of this newsletter join SABR by [clicking here](#). For more information about SABR's Negro Leagues Committee [click here](#).
Copyright © 2015 SABR. All Rights Reserved

Sunsets . . .

CARL "HOGHEAD, YOGI" HOLDEN, SR., 73 died February 16, 2015, at the Sherry Inn Nursing Home in Huntsville, Alabama. Holden was a catcher for the 1960-63 Birmingham Black Barons. He started his baseball career with the Rocket City Dodgers in 1955, before going to the Huntsville Hawks in 1958, where he played two seasons. Holden also spent some time with the Indianapolis Clowns in the early 1960s.



Over the past 30 years, Holden was owner of the Carl's Beverages & Cindy's Wine Cellar. Holden's interment was at the Valhalla Memory Gardens in Huntsville.

REV. WILLIE JAMES HONICUTT, JR., 82, died April 8, 2015 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Honicutt was a middle infielder, from 1954 to 1961 with the Detroit Stars and the Kansas City Monarchs. Earlier in his baseball career, in 1951, he had try outs with the Chicago White Sox (Fort Pierce, FL) and the Brooklyn Dodgers (Vero Beach, FL). Failing to make it to the Show he joined the Grand Rapids Black Sox, where he was discovered by **Ted Rasberry**.



The former **Golden Gloves** boxing champion became a minister in 1972 and served as Associate Minister for St. Luke A.M.E. Church in Grand Rapids. Honicutt was born on June 10, 1932 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.