

# The Courier

A Publication of SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

"We are the Ship, All Else the Sea"

Editor, Larry Lester

Labor Day Weekend, 2018

## In the News

### Congress Introduces Integration of Baseball Commemorative Coin Act

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

### Senators Scott and Booker, Congressmen Williams and Richmond Sponsor Legislation Authorizing United States Mint to Produce Coin Honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Integration of Major League Baseball in 2022

(COOPERSTOWN, NY) – In 1947, the National Pastime truly became America's game when Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby integrated baseball.

Today, the United States Congress announced the introduction of legislation that will celebrate and honor these landmark events in the country's history with the Integration of Baseball Commemorative Coin Act.

Under a bill introduced in the Senate by **Senators Tim Scott (R-SC)** and **Cory Booker (D-NJ)**, and in the House of Representatives by **Congressmen Roger Williams (R-TX)** and **Cedric Richmond (D-LA)**, the Integration of Baseball Commemorative Coin Act authorizes the production of an official United States Mint Commemorative Coin ([S. 3283](#) and [H.R. 6469](#)) honoring the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball in 1947. On April 15, 1947, Robinson debuted for the National League's Brooklyn Dodgers and on July 5, 1947, Doby integrated the American League with the Cleveland Indians.

"In 1947, seven years before the landmark Supreme Court case, **Brown V. Board of Education**, and 17 years before the passage of the **Civil Rights Act**, **Jackie Robinson** and **Larry Doby** stepped onto Major League Baseball diamonds and forever changed the history of our nation," said **Jeff Idelson**, President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. "The recognition of this seminal moment in United States history through the minting of a coin in the design of a baseball diamond will serve to educate future generations of Americans about the struggles and ultimate triumphs of those on the vanguard of the civil rights movement."

"The National Baseball Hall of Fame is grateful to Senators Tim Scott and Cory Booker, and Congressmen Roger Williams and Cedric Richmond for taking the lead on the introduction of this historic bipartisan and bicameral legislation, which recognizes the 75th anniversary of the

integration of baseball and the meaningful work of the Jackie Robinson Foundation."

"Celebrating 1947, the year Major League Baseball was integrated, reinforces the fundamental values that define our country," said **Della Britton Baeza**, President and CEO of the Jackie Robinson Foundation. "Issuance of such a commemorative coin by the United States Mint will help to educate future generations about a glorious moment in our history – with which we at JRF are proud to be associated."

"So often through our nation's history, sports have helped unify us during times of trouble and tragedy. Talent, sweat, and perseverance are colorblind, and today's recognition is a testament to those who fought so hard for the integration of America's favorite pastime," said Senator Scott. "I am thrilled to play a small role in honoring these legends in our history books."

"The integration of Major League Baseball nearly 75 years ago was a historic moment in the advancement of civil rights in the United States," Sen. Booker said.

**"The Integration of Baseball Commemorative Coin Act** will celebrate the brave actions of Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby and the

critical role baseball has played in our nation's history."

"Baseball has always been America's game. Growing up as a baseball player has shaped who I am as a person on and off the field – I know it takes hard work and perseverance to achieve anything worthwhile," said Congressman Williams. "Baseball's impact on our country is best exemplified by Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson. In 1947, he changed this game forever when he stepped out on Ebbets Field to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers. At a time when integration was considered ambitious and unachievable, baseball led the way by bringing together Americans from all different backgrounds – celebrating their love of the game. Baseball took center stage during pivotal time in our country's history, which is why I am proud to introduce the **Integration of Baseball Commemorative Coin Act** with so many of my colleagues in the House and Senate."

"As a public servant and lifelong baseball fan, I am keenly aware that I stand on the shoulders of the giants who came before me," said Congressman Richmond. "Even amongst giants, Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby stand out. Their courage and commitment to justice and equality inspired Americans across the country and their example lives on today in every child that slips on a glove or slides into second. In



these divided times, Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby should serve as a reminder that the baseball diamond can be a place where people of all colors and creeds can come together to participate in one of America's great traditions.”

All of the coins will be square with the design corner aligned. The design for the coins will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Jackie Robinson Foundation and the Commission of Fine Arts, then to be reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory Committee. The Secretary of the Treasury will hold a competition to determine the design of the common obverse of the coins, with the design being emblematic of the integration of the game of baseball. A common reverse design will feature a baseball diamond.

**Three denominations will be issued: \$5 gold coins (not more than 50,000 minted); \$1 silver coins (not more than 500,000 minted); and half-dollar clad coins (not more than 750,000 minted).**

The Secretary of the Treasury will issue coins minted under the act during only a one-year period beginning **Jan. 1, 2022.**

Congress may enact only two Commemorative Coin Acts per year, authorizing the production of coins that celebrate and honor American people, places, events and institutions. As well as commemorating important aspects of American history and culture, these coins help raise money for important causes. Part of the price of these coins is a surcharge that goes to organizations and projects that benefit the community.

Surcharges received from the sale of the coins will benefit the **National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum** and the **Jackie Robinson Foundation**.

## A Call for Papers

**W**e are sending out a call for presentations and displays for the upcoming **2018 Southern Negro Baseball Conference** to be held at Rickwood Field, Birmingham, Al. Oct 4-6, 2018.

This year's conference topic will be the last Negro League Baseball World Series in 1948. It is our hope that many of the writers who contributed to the SABR book "*Bittersweet Goodbye: The Black Barons, the Grays, and the 1948 Negro League World Series*" will consider making a presentation. This will also be a great opportunity to actually be on the field where several of the games were played.

Presentations should be 20 to 30 minutes in length. We encourage PowerPoint presentations, but it is not a must.

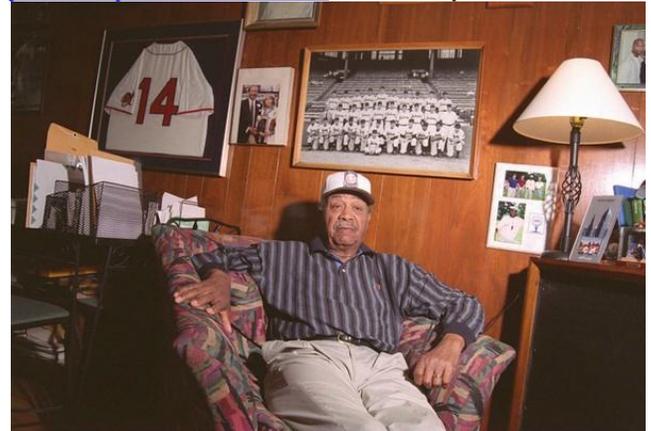
Please refrain from quoting large quantities of statistics. Please send a short synopsis of your presentation to **Clarence Watkins** for our consideration. [cwatkins5@charter.net](mailto:cwatkins5@charter.net)

We will select 6 presentations and 2 alternates. If selected you will be asked to provide a couple of images pertaining to your presentation for our conference program. We will also need a brief bio on you.

We are also seeking vintage memorabilia collectors to display artifacts related to the topic and its teams. See the next page for Conference details.

## U.S. House honors N.J.'s Larry Doby, who made history as Major League Baseball's 2nd black player

By [Jonathan D. Salant](#), [jsalant@njadvancemedia.com](mailto:jsalant@njadvancemedia.com), Posted July 10, 2018



**I**n this 1998 photo, **Larry Doby** relaxes in an easy chair in his Montclair, N.J., home in front of his Cleveland Indians memorabilia. (Mario Suiani | Newhouse News Service)

The U.S. House voted to give the **Congressional Gold Medal** to the late Larry Doby, who grew up in Paterson and became the second African-American to play major league baseball.

Doby, a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame who joined the **Cleveland Indians** just months after Jackie Robinson integrated the major leagues in 1947, grew up in Paterson and played at **Hinchliffe Stadium**.

"Being second did not make his challenges any less difficult or his courage any less remarkable," **Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr.**, D-9th District said on the House floor.

The voice vote sends the resolution, sponsored by Pascrell and **Jim Renacci**, R-Ohio, to the U.S. Senate.

"You've got to get the other end of the building to move," Pascrell said after the vote. "I'm bugging them all the time."

Doby spent most of his career with the Indians, becoming the first black to homer in the World Series in 1948, and later became the *second black manager* behind Frank Robinson when he was tapped to lead the **Chicago White Sox**.

Doby later worked in the front office of the **New Jersey Nets**. He died in 2003.

Pascrell, the batting coach for the Democrats in the annual congressional baseball game, also played at Hinchliffe and was good enough to receive two major league tryouts with the **Philadelphia Phillies**.

He earlier successfully pushed for **President Barack Obama** to give Baseball Hall of Fame catcher **Yogi Berra** the presidential medal of freedom.

The Senate version is sponsored by U.S. Sens. **Cory Booker** and **Robert Menendez**, D-N.J.; **Sherrod Brown**, D-Ohio and **Rob Portman**, R-Ohio; and **Lindsey Graham** and **Tim Scott**, R-S.C.

## 1st Annual Southern Negro Baseball Conference

October 4-6, 2018

Rickwood Field, Birmingham, AL

It is with great pleasure that **The Center for Negro Baseball Research**, **The Southern Negro Baseball Museum**, The Rickwood Field SABR Chapter, and Friends of Rickwood announce the *1st Annual Southern Negro Baseball Conference* to be held in Birmingham, on October 4-6, 2018. This year's conference's topic will be the **1948 Last Negro League World Series**, including a visit with **Rev. Bill Greason**, a member of the **Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame**. Please consider attending and sharing your commitment to keeping alive the rich history of the Southern Negro Baseball.

**Thursday** night will include a reception at the Negro Southern League Museum hosted by Dr. Layton Revel. Visit their site at: <https://www.birminghamnslm.org/>

**Friday** will be an all day event at **Rickwood Field**, the only ballpark still in existence that hosted a Negro League World Series.

**Saturday's** conference will discuss the *Last Negro League World Series* in 1948 which was played at Rickwood Field. <https://www.rickwood.com>



Our host hotel is the: **Hilton Garden Inn**,  
<http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alabama/hilton-garden-inn-downtown-birmingham-BHMDWGI/index.html>

250 18<sup>th</sup> Street South - Birmingham, AL 35233  
205-322-7533 or 205-322-7937

This hotel is in walking distance of the Negro Southern League Museum and Regions Park, home of the Birmingham Barons. *We have reserved 50 rooms at \$139. Of the 50, 25 are kings and 25 are doubles.*

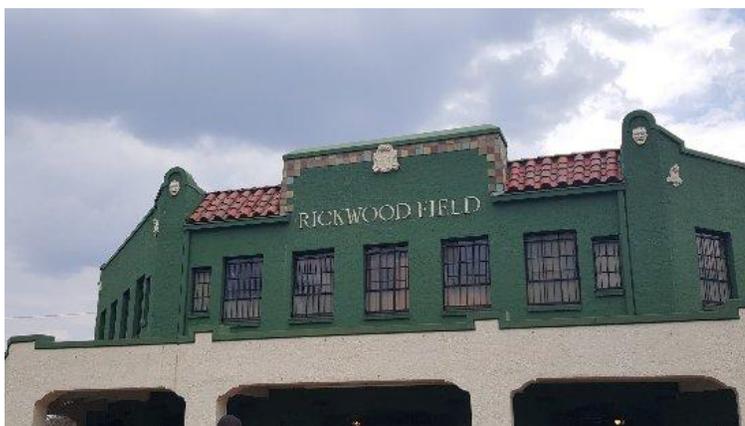
*Room reservations are the responsibility of individual conference attendees.*

Conference registration must be received by the Friends of Rickwood no later than **Monday, September 24**. However, please confirm your attendance to Clarence Watkins ([cwatkins5@charter.net](mailto:cwatkins5@charter.net)) at your earliest convenience, in order that we may accurately judge the over-all level of interest. Due to limited seating space at **Rickwood Field**, we must limit conference attendance to the first 60 registrations.

Also, please let us know if you have friends or colleagues who may like to receive conference information. Thank you again, and we look forward to seeing you at Rickwood Field.

Submitted by Clarence Watkins

**Deadline to submit presentations is August 31, 2018.**





## SABR's BioProject - Biographies of Negro Leaguers currently on the site

[Ted Alexander](#)  
[George Altman](#)  
[Sandy Amorós](#)  
[Walter Ball](#)  
[Dan Bankhead](#)  
[Sam Bankhead](#)  
[Lloyd Bassett](#)  
[Herman Bell](#)  
[Charles Lefty Bell](#)  
[Garnett Blair](#)  
[Ed Bolden](#)  
[Bob Boston](#)  
[Bob Boyd](#)  
[John Britton](#)  
[Raymond Brown](#)  
[Willard Brown](#)  
[Clarence Bruce](#)  
[Roy Campanella](#)  
[Jimmy Claxton](#)  
[Luther Clifford](#)  
[George Crowe](#)  
[Ray Dandridge](#)  
[Piper Davis](#)  
[Saul Davis](#)  
[Leon Day](#)  
[Martin Dihigo](#)  
[Larry Doby](#)  
[John Wesley Donaldson](#)  
[Luke Easter](#)  
[Clarence Evans](#)  
[Wilmer Fields](#)  
[Rube Foster](#)

[Bud Fowler](#)  
[Erwin Fowlkes](#)  
[Charles Gary](#)  
[Robert Gaston](#)  
[Alfonso Gerard](#)  
[Josh Gibson](#)  
[Jim Gilliam](#)  
[S. K. Govern](#)  
[Charlie Grant](#)  
[Frank Grant](#)  
[Bill Greason](#)  
[Gus Greenlee](#)  
[Wiley Griggs](#)  
[Sam Hairston](#)  
[Vic Harris](#)  
[Tom Hayes](#)  
[Albert Haywood](#)  
[Jay Heard](#)  
[Dave Hoskins](#)  
[Elston Howard](#)  
[Charlie Hughes](#)  
[Monte Irvin](#)  
[Dick Jackson](#)  
[Rufus Jackson](#)  
[Fats Jenkins](#)  
[Sam Jethroe](#)  
[Judv Johnson](#)  
[Sam Jones](#)  
[Cecil Kaiser](#)  
[Henry Kimbro](#)  
[Larry Kimbrough](#)  
[Buck Leonard](#)

[Pop Lloyd](#)  
[Dick Lundy](#)  
[Luis Marquez](#)  
[Horacio Martinez](#)  
[Fran Matthews](#)  
[Willie Mays](#)  
[Lefty Mellix](#)  
[José Méndez](#)  
[Minnie Minoso](#)  
[Bill Monroe](#)  
[Eudie Napier](#)  
[Millito Navarro](#)  
[Jimmie Newberry](#)  
[Satchel Paige](#)  
[Tom Parker](#)  
[Charlie Peete](#)  
[Art Pennington](#)  
[Alonzo Perry](#)  
[Bruce Petway](#)  
[Nat Pollard](#)  
[Alex Pompez](#)  
[Bill Pope](#)  
[Cum Posey](#)  
[Ethel Posey](#)  
[Bill Powell](#)  
[Bobby Robinson](#)  
[Jackie Robinson](#)  
[William Ross](#)  
[Lazaro Salazar](#)  
[Abe Saperstein](#)  
[Joe Scott](#)  
[Harry Simpson](#)

[George Smith](#)  
[Hilton Smith](#)  
[Willie Smith](#)  
[Willie D. Smith](#)  
[Ed Steele](#)  
[Archie Stewart](#)  
[Toni Stone](#)  
[George Stovey](#)  
[Mule Suttles](#)  
[Johnny Taylor](#)  
[Frank Thompson](#)  
[Hank Thompson](#)  
[Bob Thurman](#)  
[Luis E. Tiant](#)  
[Cristóbal Torriente](#)  
[Bob Trice](#)  
[Quincy Troupe](#)  
[Jim Tugerson](#)  
[Juan "Tetelo" Vargas](#)  
[Edsall Walker](#)  
[R. T. Walker](#)  
[Edgar "Blue"](#)  
[Washington](#)  
[Sol White](#)  
[Frank Wickware](#)  
[J.L. Wilkinson](#)  
[Joe Williams](#)  
[Samuel Williams](#)  
[Artie Wilson](#)  
[Jud Wilson](#)  
[John Wright](#)  
[Jim Zapp](#)

"Control plus click" on any name above to read the best biographies available on the internet.

I signed up to do bios on pitchers **Cannonball Dick Redding** and **Chet Brewer**. Who is going to step up and write biographies on the incredible careers of **John Beckwith**, **William Bell**, **Sammy T. Hughes**, **Dobie Moore**, **Alejandro Oms**, **Pancho Coimbre**, **C.I. Taylor**, **Candy Jim Taylor**, **Grant Johnson**, **Spot Poles**, **Rap Dixon**, **Jimmie Crutchfield**, **Bingo DeMoss**, **Newt Allen**, the **Martin brothers** from Memphis, and others worthy of recognition? Notable **Hall of Famers missing** from the list are; **Biz Mackey**, **Ben Taylor**, **Oscar Charleston**, **Andy Cooper**, **Bullet Rogan** and **Louis Santop**. Let's fill in these missing chapters of baseball history.

To see if a player has been assigned, check here: [https://sabr.org/bioproj\\_search](https://sabr.org/bioproj_search) . If your search does not bring up the player's name, e-mail Lyle Spatz at [lspace@comcast.net](mailto:lspace@comcast.net). He will create a "node" -- SABR is actively seeking to build these out for Negro Leaguers. Also e-mail Lyle (and copy [LarryLester42@gmail.com](mailto:LarryLester42@gmail.com) ) if you wish to take on an assignment.

### Submission format

*Microsoft Word* is the common currency of the BioProject.

Bare minimum word count is **1,500**. Normal maximum is **7,000**. The sweet spot is around **3,000-4000** words.

**Suggested Font type and size:** Times New Roman, 12.

<https://sabr.org/content/bioproject-FAQs>

**Guideline details** can be found at the link below:

<https://sabr.org/content/bioproject-authors-guidelines>

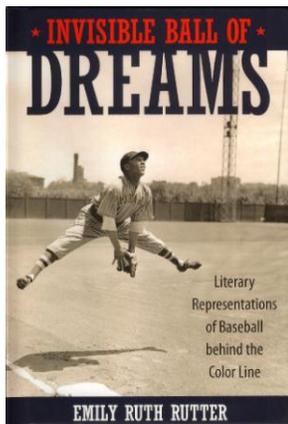
The first guideline is to "Avoid Puffery". I'm guilty!

**Submit your incredible bios to** Rory Costello [roryscostello@gmail.com](mailto:roryscostello@gmail.com)



## Dugout Reading:

### Invisible Ball of Dreams: Literary Representations of Baseball behind the Color Line by Emily Ruth Rutter

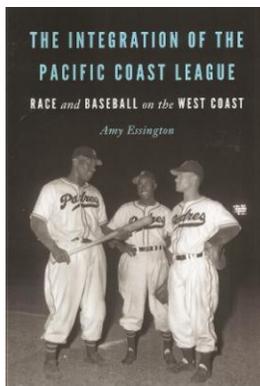


Tim Morris, a professor of English at the University of Texas at Arlington, proclaimed, "*Invisible Ball of Dreams* makes a substantial, provocative and long overdue contribution to understanding how African Americans have been subject -- and creators -- of writing about baseball. Rutter's book is an essential critical text for the study of American sport literature."

While **Dr. Trey Strecker**, an English professor at Louisiana State University and editor of *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture* wrote, "Historically informed, theoretically sophisticated and eminently readable, *Invisible Ball of Dreams* lifts the study of black baseball literature out of the shadows. Rutter brings theories of the archive and cultural memory to a number of texts in original ways that will encourage historians and literary critics to rethink the powerful cultural work these texts do. No one seriously interested in black baseball or in baseball literature can afford to ignore this book."

Dr. Rutter is assistant professor of English at Ball State University. Her book is published by the University Press of Mississippi.

### The Integration of the Pacific Coast League: Race and Baseball on the West Coast by Amy Essington



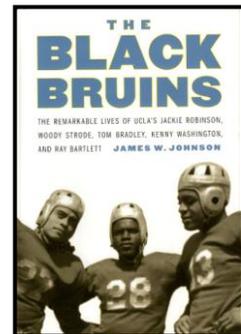
Any book with **Luke Easter**, **Artie Wilson** (the last Negro leaguer to hit .400) and **John Ritchey** on the cover has to be a winner. This book describes the evolution of the PCL beginning with the league's differing treatment of African Americans and other nonwhite players. Between 1900s and the 1930s, team owners knowingly signed Hawaiian players, Asian players and African-American players who claimed that they were Native Americans.

In the post-World War II era, with the pressure and challenges facing desegregation, the league gradually accepted African-American players. In the 1940s individual players and the local press challenged the segregation of the league. Because these Minor League teams integrated so much earlier than the Major Leagues or the eastern Minor Leagues, West Coast baseball fans were the first to experience a more diverse game of baseball talent.

Amy Essington is an instructor in the history department at California State University in Fullerton. This in-depth study of one of the first sports league to be fully integrated is published by the University of Nebraska Press.

### The Black Bruins: The Remarkable Lives of UCLA's Jackie Robinson, Woody Strode, Tom Bradley, Kenny Washington, and Ray Bartlett by James W. Johnson

Much more than a book on football, Johnson chronicles the inspirational lives of teammates at UCLA in the late 1930s. While **Jackie Robinson** was the first African American in the major leagues, in modern times; **Kenny Washington** became the first Black to sign with an NFL team in the post-World War II era. Johnson notes the present of **Woody Strode** on the Bruins football team and a track, and later starring in an incredible 50 plus films. More than just a footnote in this book, he writes extensively about future Los Angeles **Mayor Tom Bradley** and his days as a track star. Well written and richly footnoted, *The Black Bruins* is published by the University of Nebraska Press.



### The Heritage: Black Athletes, A Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism by Howard Bryant

Bryant is a senior writer for [www.ESPN.com](http://www.ESPN.com) and *ESPN the Magazine* and was a 2003 finalist for SABR's Seymour Medal.

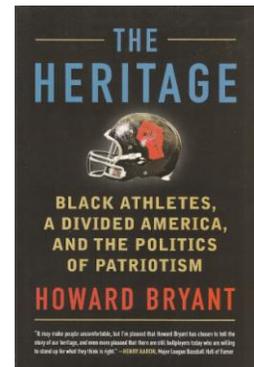
Bryant writes, "It used to be that politics and sports were as separate from one another as church and state. The ball field was an escape from the world's worst problems, as top athletes were treated like heroes. 'No news on the sports page' was a governing principle in the newsrooms. That was then.

Today, sports arenas have been transformed into staging grounds for American patriotism and the hero worship of law enforcement. Teams wear camouflage jerseys to honor those who serve; police officers (and Presidents) throw out the first pitches. Sports and politics are decidedly entwined.

But as journalist Bryant reveals, this relationship has always been more complicated for black athletes, who from the start were committing a political act simply by being on the field. **Hank Aaron** adds, "It may make people uncomfortable, but I'm pleased that Howard Bryant has chosen to tell the story of our heritage, and even more pleased that there are still ballplayers today who are willing to stand up for what they think is right."

While sports editor and author **Dave Zirin** (*Jim Brown: Last Man Standing* and *Muhammad Ali Handbook*) expressed, "This is the book of explaining our times, whether you give a damn about sports or not."

Other outstanding books by Bryant include; *Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston*, *Juicing the Game: Drugs, Power, and the Fight for the Soul of Major League Baseball* and my favorite *The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron*.



## The 2018 Thomas R. Garrett Memorial Scholarship Family presents:

### Rube Foster Scholarship Winner

**Marith Anderson**, a graduate of Rush-Henrietta Senior High School in Henrietta, N.Y., is the winner of the Rube Foster Scholarship. Marith's research allowed her to learn more about the incredible heritage of the Negro Leagues and about Foster, a legendary pitcher-turned-visionary that she believes too few people know about today. A member of **National Honor Society** and **Tri-M National Music Honor Society**, Marith has been interested in learning more about other people her entire life. Whether volunteering to support Camp Invention, Vacation Bible School, or the local food cupboard, she also enjoys assessing a need and pitching in to help. During high school, Marith was active in the music program, taking part in Celtic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, and Bel Canto Singers. She will continue to pursue her passion for music, and foster her love of people, at **Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y.** She plans to study **psychology**.

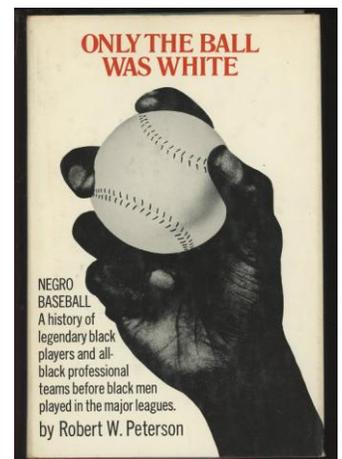


### Jimmie Crutchfield Scholarship

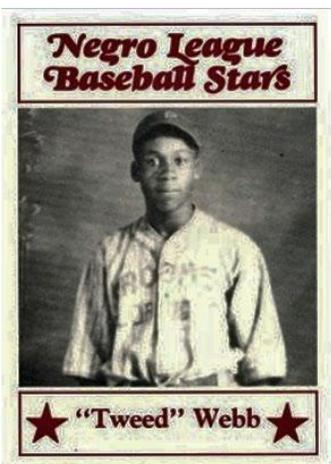
**Kasey Fung** will be an incoming freshman at **Columbia University in the City of New York** and am planning to major in **Neuroscience and Behavior** and minor in the **Classics**. I hope to understand how the brain works and why humans have certain behaviors and habits. I enjoy dancing, skiing, running, and advocating and spreading awareness of social justice issues.

### Robert Peterson Scholarship

**Dallas Lim** is a graduating high school senior at Lincoln East High School. In her time at Lincoln East, she was vice president of **Key Club**, tutored elementary school students, earned top academic honors, and was awarded **AP Scholar with Distinction**. In addition to her academic and volunteering activities, Dallas is also Ambassador to **Girl Up**, a female empowerment club, and swam competitively for eight years. She will be attending **Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia** in Fall 2018.



### Normal "Tweed" Webb Scholarship



**Kiaran Octavius Turner** is a senior at Ridgeview High School in Orange Park, Florida. Kiaran was born on October 21, 1999 in Norfolk, Virginia to Terrance and Daphne Turner. Kiaran and his family moved to Florida in 2003 due to a military transfer. Kiaran has been accepted to **Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia** where he will major in Communications. His long-term goal is to become a successful **journalist and commentator**. Journalism has always been a field of interest to him because he considers himself to be naturally inquisitive and is also easily entertained with the slightest stories. News doesn't stop when a work day is over and he believes that he will be able to succeed with this career choice and build a multimedia platform. His desire is to become an authentic, reliable, and respected commentator and journalist with an emphasis on giving back to society with his words.

## Mo'ne Davis honors 'Peanut' at mural unveiling



By Zachary Silver MLB.com  
July 12th, 2018

**M**o'ne Davis still cherishes the signed ball Mamie "Peanut" Johnson gave to her, as well as a shirt with the latter's face on it. Davis first met Johnson on a 4,000-mile trip with her Little League team -- the **Anderson Monarchs** -- around the country on a 1947-style bus in 2015. With the Monarchs set to play a game on the tour right by Johnson's home in Virginia, **Steve Bandura** -- founder of the team -- reached out to Johnson. The groundbreaking first female pitcher in the Negro Leagues didn't hesitate to come out and watch Davis -- an embodiment of her legacy -- pitch.

Bandura told the story of the Monarchs' 2015 journey at the unveiling of a mural in downtown Washington, D.C., that honors the late Johnson and 12-time Negro League All-Star **Josh Gibson**. Included in the mural are images of Johnson in recent years before her death and as a young woman pitching, as well as Gibson and his Negro Leagues team, the Homestead Grays.

"I would always remember everything she told me, [like] 'Never throw it over the heart of the plate,'" Davis said of Johnson at the unveiling of the mural. "So every time I pitch, that's what I think about. She inspired me, and she's one of the greats that I've modeled my pitching after."

Davis, who made headlines in 2014 as a dominant pitcher at the **Little League World Series**, was joined in speaking to the crowd by Sean Gibson, who was there to represent his great-grandfather Josh.

Members of the **DC Grays** -- a squad in the **Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League** named after Gibson's former team -- were also in attendance, along with Davis' teammates on the Monarchs.

Both Johnson and Gibson were depicted by artist **Aniekan Udofia** in the famous alley beside Ben's Chili Bowl -- a D.C. institution that draws crowds from afar and locals for late-night dining. The two Negro League greats now share the alley with U.S. presidents, national icons and local celebrities.

In D.C. lore, having your face on the side of the 60-year-old **Ben's Chili Bowl** rivals the honor of being invited to the White House, which Johnson was -- by **President Bill Clinton**.

"For me and my family it's an honor," Gibson said after the ceremonies. "There are a lot of great African-American legends and icons already on the wall, and to add Mamie 'Peanut' Johnson, Josh Gibson and the Homestead Grays, for us it's a blessing because you're just as important as these other guys on the wall across from them."

Johnson, Gibson and the rest of the Grays on the mural are now permanent symbols of ground-breaking athletes who can hopefully inspire a next generation of pedestrians on D.C.'s U Street block to do the same, Gibson said.

"That's the goal," Gibson said. "... Hopefully we can get more young people to come out and play baseball."

[Zachary Silver](#) is a reporter for MLB.com based in Baltimore.

## Sunrises!

SEND YOUR FAVORITE NEGRO LEAGUER A BIRTHDAY CARD.

### SEPTEMBER

3rd – **BILL GREASON – 94**

4th – **JOSE SANTIAGO – 90**

5th – BILLY RAY HAGGINS – 89

7th – RICKY MAROTO – 86

9th – JIM PROCTOR – 83

16th – OLLIE BRANTLEY – 87

21st – LOUIS CLARIZIO – 87

22nd – SWEET LOU JOHNSON – 86

### OCTOBER

7th – **RAY MADDIX – 90**

20th – CLIFF LAYTON – 89

### NOVEMBER

4th – **ERNIE “SCHOOLBOY” JOHNSON –**

**90**

16th – **RICHARD “SKEETER” BANKS - 98**

17th – ROBERT ROSELL WILLIAMS – 86

18th -- BOB “PEACHEAD” MITCHELL – 86

20th – **BUDDY OWENS – 91**

23rd – WILLIAM “BABA” RICHARDSON – 84

30th – ERNIE WESTFIELD – 79

## SABR's Negro Leagues Committee

Larry Lester - chair, [LarryLester42@gmail.com](mailto:LarryLester42@gmail.com)

*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](#).

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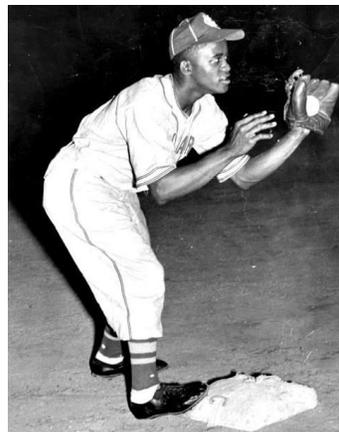
## Sunsets!

**WILLIAM LEROY "BILLY" MCCRARY, 88**, died July 21, 2018 in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. McCrary was adopted at the tender age of seven weeks by William "Bud" McCrary and Estella Kidd-McCrary. Billy attended Beloit Public Schools (Wisconsin) and graduated from Beloit Memorial High School in 1948.

McCrary was a shortstop for the **Kansas City Monarchs** in 1948 and 1949. He claimed his top salary was \$850 a month. After the Monarchs, McCrary played with the Janesville Cubs in the Wisconsin State League

It has been reported, unofficially, that he hit .341 in two seasons with the Monarchs, then played for farm teams affiliated with the **New York Yankees** and **Chicago Cubs**. He even played for the barnstorming Satchel Paige All-Stars.

“When I was playing Legion ball, there were places that wouldn’t serve (blacks),” McCrary told the *Beloit Daily News* in 2013. “But Mr. Pohlman (coach **Harry Pohlman**) said you either feed everybody or you don’t feed anybody.”



Despite the racism he experienced, McCrary said often he was thankful for his time in baseball.

“I had a pretty nice career,” McCrary told the *Milwaukee Courier*. “People ask me if I would go back and do it again and I say, ‘Sure I would do it again because it helped out a lot of ballplayers.’ ”

After baseball, McCrary worked as a foreman at Alcoa and General Motors and founded a janitorial service company. He was a family man content to leave baseball in his past.

A close friend, **Jeff Klein** said McCrary told him that it was only after a visit to the Negro Leagues museum, when he saw a poster-sized photograph of himself, that he realized the mark segregated baseball players left on the game and on society.

“There was a bench in front of his picture and he sat there and stared at it,” Klein said. “He told me, ‘That’s when I realized what I did mattered.’ He sat and cried. From that point forward, he wanted to share his story.”

*Batter Up!*