

# Induction Ceremony 9/8/21

## **Jane Forbes Clark**

Good afternoon and welcome to the 2021 National Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. It's often said that the greatest things in life are worth waiting for. And this has been worth waiting for. The induction of our Hall of Fame Class of 2020. So on this wonderful afternoon here in Cooperstown, we will induct four of baseball legends. Marvin Miller, Ted Simmons, Larry Walker and Derek Jeter. With their inductions, the Hall of Fame will now have 333 members. 263 players. Only 1% of those to have played the major league game. Think about that. Only 1% and they are joined in the Hall of Fame by 38 pioneers and executives, including our only female inductee Effa Manley. 22 are managers and 10 are umpires. And they have all had incredible baseball careers. They define the greatness of the game, with their character, their integrity and their sportsmanship. They are our legends. Before we introduce 34 of our Hall of Fame legends, I would like to welcome two special individuals. This gentleman spent 25 years as an executive with the Baseball Hall of Fame, including 11 as President before retiring during the summer of 2019. He rejoined us this past May, as our interim president to lead the institution, and help guide us through this Induction Ceremony. We have been extremely grateful for his leadership. Please welcome back, Jeff Idelson. I'd also like to introduce to you the Hall of Fame's new incoming president, who joins us after 27 years in baseball as an executive, first with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the last decade, with the Arizona Diamondbacks. He is deeply respected throughout baseball, and his passion for the game, and its history runs very deep. We are thrilled to welcome he and his family to Cooperstown. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the eighth president of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Josh Rawitch. And it is now my pleasure to welcome our master of ceremonies to introduce our returning Hall of Fame members. He's been with MLB Network since 2011, and is the host of MLB Now, and he appears across much of the network's programming. He has a love for, and a commitment to baseball, to the Hall of Fame, and to Cooperstown. In his fourth year, as our master of ceremonies. Please give a warm welcome to Brian Kenny.

## **Joe Torre**

Thank you Jane. It's really hard to imagine that we lost 10 members of the Hall of Fame family. The baseball family. Guys who are not only legends of the game, but very, very special individuals. As Jane said they're also dear friends, guys I played with and against guys for whom, actually, guys. we all had the utmost respect for. Johnny Bench narrated a beautiful piece about our fallen legends, and wanted to be here today to introduce this video as well as the welcome Larry, Ted, and Derek into the Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, Johnny has contracted COVID, but thankfully he is vaccinated and should help him, which should help him immensely. I talked to Johnny the other day, he sounded great, he was so sorry he couldn't be here, he felt fine. So that's good news for all of us. I just want to... Yes let's hear it. I just ask you now to turn your attention to the video monitor. Thank you.

## **Ted Simmons**

Good afternoon. I would like to thank the members of the Modern Baseball Committee for this great honor. Congratulations to all the other inductees. Thank you Jane Forbes Clark, National Baseball Hall of Fame for creating this special experience for everyone today. As a youngster in Detroit, Michigan, I was a Tigers fan. I grew up with idolizing Norm Cash, Rocky Colavito, Frank Lary and Bill Freehan. It was in that era, that I discovered my first hero Al Kaline. He had no idea how much impact in my life, or

what a role model. he became for me. In my youth, Kaline was my hero. As I stand before you as a man. He remains my hero today. There are many roads to Cooperstown. One look at this very special group behind me, makes that clear. For some that comes quickly, and for others it takes a little time. For those like myself, the path is long. And even though my path fell on the longer side, I would not change a thing. However, we get here. However, we get here none of us arrives alone. I'm no exception Charlie Daniels and Fred Fournier. My earliest coaches prepared me for the sandlots of Detroit, where every major league prospect in Detroit came to play. Fred Davis and Ray Coles guided me through those four summers in the Detroit Amateur Baseball Federation. Dave Sebring. Freddie Goldberg and Ed Bryant steered me through junior high school, and high school, athletically and academically. Athletically I got all A's; academically, not so much. But I did well enough that they easily passed me into the lap of Moby Benedict who ushered me into the University of Michigan. Moby was a head baseball coach for the Wolverines. In June of 1967 I signed a professional baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals, making myself ineligible to play college baseball. Regardless, three months later, in September of that same year, I began classes in Ann Arbor. Moby Benedict made that happen for me. And I still owe him. My trip through the minors was a fast one. Joe Cunningham my manager at the A level was the first major league hitter to tell me that I would become one myself. I believed him because he had been one himself. Warren Spahn, my triple A manager was the first Hall of Fame member I was ever around on a regular basis. He was a proud and very confident man. It was George Kissell the Cardinals' Mr. Everything who had the greatest impact on me. He taught me fundamental baseball and how to play to win. I also learned from George how to win and lose with grace. He gave me my first taste of humility. Nobody came through the Cardinals organization to St. Louis, without Kissell's blessing, nobody, and his blessing had to be earned. If George Kissell said no, you did not go. I would like to take a moment to take and mention four other men who changed the lives of every player on this stage today by pushing the boundaries of player rights in this game. Curt Flood, who paid the price for challenging the reserve clause. Catfish Hunter, for showing what would happen if a major league player actually became a free agent. Andy Messersmith for charting the course to free agency by becoming the first major league player to overcome one and one. And Marvin Miller who made so much possible for every major league player from my era to the present and the future. I could not be more proud to enter this great hall with this great man. Our game is about wins and losses, but after 50 years of organized baseball I've learned that it's so much more. Baseball is about all the names and faces that remain firmly planted in one's memory. My major league experience as a player was long and the rosters of those teams listed many great players. They also listed countless others, not nearly as recognizable, but their faces remained with me just as indelibly. My other baseball life has been on the administrative and player evaluation side. I've been a Farm Director, General Manager, and a major league scout. Here I began to see the inner workings of the baseball industry and a new world was opened up to me. My role on the administrative side of baseball has been just as important to me as my active playing career. I've worked with men like Dal Maxvill. John Schuerholz, John Hart. Kevin Towers, and Jack Zduriencik. All breed baseball men. And I've learned much from each of them. A quick special mention here for Peter Vukovich and Bruce Sutter. The two baseball man I trust the most with what I know. We have seen much. As a talent evaluator and scout I pattern myself after Bill Brick, Gordy Vikki, Chris With, George Zero, Bobby Schaefer and Charlie Kerfeld. All no nonsense types, always willing to put their neck on the line for a player that they liked. It was on this non-playing side of my baseball career that I saw how huge Major League Baseball had become, and realize how lucky I have been to spent my entire working life in the game that I love. For those of you who are concerned that our game has changed, it has. Strikeout, locks, overs today is pretty much what you get. But our game can change back. And eventually, another George Brett will surface. He'll hit 360 he'll homer 40 times he'll drive in 160 runs and strikeout 75 times. He'll walk 100 times and his on base percentage will be 420.

Our game is fluid. Hitters will begin to beat the defensive shifts, and the pendulum will swing back. Game evolves. It's just a matter of time. Briefly, I would like to talk about advocates. While I've had many advocates in my lifetime, Robin Yount pushed really hard for my Hall of Fame candidacy. Bud Selig convinced myself and others, that my candidacy was legitimate. and if elected, it would be for the good of the game. When the St. Louis Cardinals selected me first in the June 1967 draft, they brought me into their historic and very successful baseball family. Milwaukee Brewers became my second baseball family. They embraced me and immediately made me one of their own. Next came the Atlanta Braves, followed by the Pittsburgh Pirates, Cleveland Indians, San Diego Padres, and the Seattle Mariners. I have spent lots of time in all of these baseball families and they have affirmed and included me. So I have lived within many families, and I'm about to step into baseball's most elite family. And I am incredibly humbled. To close, a few short words about my real family. Those who've been with me the longest and loved me the most. Tony Guerrero, Gianna Sala, and Steve Horn. Thank you. John Hamm thank you for bringing your mother and father along. It was so nice to finally meet her and to see your father again. Russell and Rick, thanks to you and your loved ones, for coming and bringing Mark, David, and Russ with you. Nina and Ned. Thanks also to you and yours, for showing Bill, Bonnie Sue and Bopper all around this remarkable place. John and Matthew Simmons, Haley, Vanessa, Mina, Dylan, Nari and Madeline, you are all my very own. And of course, Marianne, my partner, my companion. My equal. She remains the same girl that listened with me, not so long ago, to the lyrics written by some pretty fabulous folks back in the day. And those words: "and in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make". Peace and love sweetheart. We finally got here. Thank you all.

### **Don Fehr**

Good afternoon, it's real privilege for me to be able to say a few words to you today. And my task I think can be summarized as trying to convey an impression of the essence of this extraordinary man, largely for people who didn't know him. Certainly not like the men behind me did, and who didn't live in the times that he did. So what I want to do is tell you something about the man I knew for some 37 years, for whom I worked, whose job I held, and give you a sense of what it was like to be with him and how he would interact with the people that he worked for, and wanted to make sure were taken care of, which was the players. He was born more than a century ago, 1917, came of age during the Depression. That was formative for anyone who did. But what he witnessed during that period of time was the growth of the American labor movement, organized labor was getting off the ground. After graduating from NYU with an economics degree, and no, contrary to what most people think he was not a lawyer. He went on to the War Labor Board. Then the International Association of Machinists, and then settled in the United Steel Workers of America as assistant to the president, research director, and effectively, the central part of their negotiating team. What's important to note is that at that point, steel workers were considered to be probably the most powerful and certainly the most influential labor organization in the world. In other words, by the time he got to the baseball players, he was a highly respected very experienced extraordinarily able union organizer and negotiator. And those are two different skills. He was also a dedicated trade unionist. That's not a phrase we use very much these days. But what it means simply, is that if employees can act together, collectively, which is where the term collective bargaining comes from, to negotiate terms and conditions of employment, they're going to be better off. And Marvin viewed that as the worthiest of causes. He did, however, believe players had to make decisions. And he had to make a very consequential one before he came on the job. Players wanted to balance out the ticket, and believe it or not, they told him they had spoken to then former Vice President Richard Nixon about becoming General Counsel. Marvin was not thrilled with this. At the end of the day, he said basically, I will come, or you can go in that direction. It was the first choice the players made during his tenure, which was the right one. By the time he retired, as the

plaque says and as the video suggested his accomplishments were already legendary. The average player salary had risen to nearly quarter of a million from less than 20,000. The minimum salary had gone up six times from what it was when he got there, to 35,000. Players had agents, arbitration of disputes was agreed to, salary arbitration and free agency. That special term we utilize in sports to suggest someone can seek another job and take that job if they choose to do it. And one of the things that was near to his heart and from time to time I thought the dearest, was the pension plan, which provided long term income for players long after their playing days were over, which is difficult in sports, because you don't work for very long. You're not working for 40 years in an industry is quite. I met Marvin first in 1975 when as a young lawyer I got to do some of the in court work in the Messersmith-McNally free agency case. And I was in regular and frequent contact with him thereafter for the next nearly four decades. Well, what was he like, what kind of a guy was he? If you read some old newspaper clippings, you'll see people complaining that he was a radical or a rabble rouser, or a union boss, which was not a compliment, then or now. That he was sometimes pugnacious or loud or insistent. That's not the man I knew. It's not the man players behind me knew. Tim McCarver and Ted Simmons gave you a very good sense of it in the video we just saw. He was quiet, soft spoken. I never heard him raise his voice except at once or twice to me privately in exasperation, never to players, or owners or fans or the media or staff. If I could describe him generally it would be that he was polite, thoughtful, deliberate, fiercely incredibly intelligent extraordinarily and meticulously well prepared incisive and decisive and as Ted mentioned to you a few minutes ago, always patient. The man had endless reserves of patience, no matter what was going on, how immediate the crisis felt he was ever willing to listen, respond, and converse boil things down to their essence, but always remain true to what the issues were at the time. It was an extraordinary set of characteristics for anyone to have. And I witnessed him regularly for a very long time. Was he firm in negotiations? Absolutely. Was he rigid? The answer is never. He was easily the most practical person I ever saw in the context of labor relations. He realized that in the end, an agreement takes two parties. And it's not some sort of an ideological manifesto, it has to work on the ground at the workplace here at the baseball field. And he was a teacher. I think he loved being called that because his mother was a high school principal at a point in time in which that was extraordinarily rare for a woman. How did he teach? He would assemble the facts. He would analyze the issues, and he would explain to players, sometimes in writing, most often in person. I remember him, hundreds of times things simply considered, and then lay out several facts, and let the players discuss thereafter. Perhaps what was most impressive to me early on, was that he always trusted the players. He said to me any number of times, give them the facts, and they will make the right decisions. Under his guidance the players always prepared for collective bargaining, you anticipate how difficult it could be. But you hope for the best. You view a strike as a last resort, not a tactic. And then you hope the owners view a lockout, the same way. So let me give you two or three quick examples of what the man was like, and how he approached things. First story. Some of you will consider perhaps most of you to be quiet. But it was a long time ago. Melissa Lucky and Time Inc filed a lawsuit against Major League Baseball seeking the extraordinary right to have women's sports reporters go into the locker room, and interview players at the same time that the men did. And he and I met with the head of the owners player relations committee and their counsel, and they gave us a long affidavit that they wanted Marvin to sign, which basically said that this was one of the most terrible things to have ever happened. Marvin listens, thought for a second, looked at me and then turned around and said, well, there's an easy way out of this. Why don't we just move the interviews out of the locker room to an interview room? That way we won't have to worry with anybody being in the locker room when players are dressing. That was not met with a positive response. So what did he then do? He said, well, we've heard you out, we'll think about it. I'm going to go home and speak to Terry, his wife, who was a professor at City College of New York at the time. And he asked me in front of them if I

would talk to my wife, Stephanie, whom he described accurately as a young, smart very modern woman. And then we would get back to them. And of course the issue died at that point. The point is, it was all done quietly politely, deftly, with a flat tone of voice, and with an object of getting to what the right result. That's Marvin in a nutshell. His interaction with players, was a marvel to behold. My first spring training in 1978, we had a meeting at Hi Corbett Field in Tucson, which is adjacent to what was then called the Tucson International Airport and it had runway shared with an Air Force base. And we were out to centerfield and the Phantoms were taking off the noise is unbelievable much worse than Shea Stadium used to be with the Jets going over and Marvin would start talking, players were crowded around him, and he would turn around, make sure he looked at everybody sooner or later. And his voice would begin to drop, and it would drop a little lower, and the players physically moved and strained to hear what he had to say. Why did they do that? Because they thought this was most important meeting they had all spring. They respected him enormously, and they trusted him completely. He was their guy. He viewed the job as I do, as sort of like being a prime minister in a parliamentary democracy. You can succeed only if the overwhelming majority of players support you. So he was always in contact, always explaining, always discussing, answering questions. And the result was trust. And that was harder to do then than now. There were no cell phones, social media, email, and we didn't even have a fax machine. So, if I can take that picture, transpose it a little bit and say, what was he, what would he be like in a setting like this? These are obviously my words, but I knew him pretty well. He would initially, I think, say a word of thanks to all the players of his era, number of which are behind me, for having placed in him the trust and confidence, that was needed. He would remember those that have passed away, he saw the video, and he knew many of those players extraordinarily well. He would congratulate the other inductees, probably remind Derek that he used to be on the other side of the table, but with a wink. And then he would have a word or two special for Ted Simmons. This is because during the 70s in internal union councils, Ted was one of the most influential players that there was. To borrow a phrase from a former Secretary of State, he was present at the creation of what we have now. In 1972, against all of baseball history, Ted didn't sign a contract. The owner said he couldn't play, of course could, and he did. Signed a contract later in the season. Important lesson to players and symbols. And in the 1980-81 negotiations, he was an omnipresent figure active and important. He stepped up. The point I want to make is that there was nothing that made Marvin prouder, or gave him more satisfaction than watching players take the bull by the horns and do it themselves. He always thanked a few people. I've heard him do this I don't know how many times. The first was to Richard Moss. Dick Moss who was the union's general counsel the first 10 years, and the architect of the legal strategy which produce free agency by the middle 70's. He was the indispensable partner during the union's formative years, and Marvin would go out of his way to make sure everybody here understood that it was Dick, who had won those cases. Then he would turn the players, and thank them as I alluded to before, for giving him the opportunity to work for them. He viewed it as an honor and a privilege, and he would tell them how proud he was that they, not he, had been able to accomplish so much. Most importantly, he would recognize his two children and his grandson. But then spend a few minutes in talking about his wife Terry. Terry Miller was without question the most important person in his life. She brought out the best in him. She would tell him, often in front of other people me and my wife Steph included, without hesitation what he needed to hear. She was a sounding board par excellence and without peer. She was the essential element. Last what I want to try and do, or almost last, is give you a sense of what he would tell players. How would he interact with them what he would want them to know. And I heard him do versions of these remarks, any number of times over the years. It goes something like this. Playing Major League Baseball is a job. It's not a game. It's not something that children do. The union's role is to negotiate the best possible conditions for you, that the prevailing economic climate will permit. But understand players, the union is

not staff, it's not me, he would say, it's you. He would suggest to them that they were better off having these negotiations collectively rather than individually. He would remind them that in collective bargaining, there's people on both sides of the table, and everyone is an equal in that setting. He would talk a little bit about history, the baseball world was not always he would say, as you found it. It need not always be that way. As Ted said players did not always have salaries and the multi-year contracts and the pension plans, that has been the rule for the last several decades, and he would tell them, whoever he was talking to, it's up to each successive group of players, you, he would say, pointing a little bit to preserve that which works and remedy that which doesn't. To do that, guys, he would say, you have to understand the issues, and you have to know your history, be educated and involved. He insisted the players personally attend negotiating meetings, so that they could participate in the discussion, hear what was said for themselves and make their own decisions, reach their own conclusions. He would remind them, as I alluded to before, that staff can only get things done for you, if you support the union's positions. Staff makes recommendations, he would say, you make decisions. Lest you think I am., perhaps overstating that. First story he told me when I came to work, was the discussion at an executive board meeting in the spring of 1972 before the first strike, which I believe was over licensing issues and lasted 12 or 13 days. Marvin's recommendation was not to strike, players said, no, the time is right, we are ready. It's their decision. If players were new, he would make two or three other points. First, negotiations take time. You can't rush them. It's just like baseball. There's no clock to tell you when it's over. You have to be patient. And you have to be unified. If you're unified, you've got a chance to negotiate whatever the best possible agreement is. If not, and his voice would trail off. In the 55 years since Marvin reorganized this union in 1966, players have adhered to this approach through the tenure of four executive directors, Michael Weiner and Tony Clark, who I believe is here today, followed me. But the players who fought those battles did it for themselves, certainly, but also for those who came after. And he would ask that you honor that legacy. Just a couple of other words. Sorry guys. Let me suggest to you why I think we're here today. It is because under Marvin's leadership, the Union became a symbol. Became a symbol of what could be accomplished and the good that could be done. It was hard to find unions who reached that problem of most of the last several decades. And that is why 39 years after he retired, his name is still on the forefront. Of all the players I had the privilege to represent, on behalf of them. I know I speak for everyone behind me, I want to say thank you, Marvin. Baseball was not the same after your tenure as it was before. It was and is much better for everyone. You brought out the best of us. And you did us proud. Thank you.

### **Larry Walker**

I don't want to forget this moment so... I was told today would be the day we become reality and sink in. and from not sleeping last night to my nervousness right now it's reality. And for making it real, I say thank you to all the writers who put that checkmark by my name, heck even those of you that didn't your jobs are not easy. And thank you to the Hall of Fame. Jane, Whitney, Shesta, Tim, Jeff and Josh and all the Hall of Fame staff. You've all been a joy to be around. ad it made me feel so very welcome. And to the amazing people of Cooperstown, I thank you very much for your hospitality. I also believe social media provided my Hall of Fame candidacy a big push. To each of you who helped share my accomplishments, I'm thankful you are in my corner. I am Canadian. A couple of years ago, I fell short in the voting. I don't do much on social media but I didn't want those hashtag things on Twitter, and it read #FergieNeedsAFriend and I was of course referring to Ferguson Jenkins who was the only Canadian in Cooperstown. Today I finally get the joint Fergie as the second Canadian in the Hall of Fame, and the first Canadian position player. Fergie, it's an honor. I was born in Maple Ridge British Columbia, like many Canadians it's almost a given that as you age you're going to play hockey. In fact, you're pretty much born with skates on and a stick in your hand. I did play hockey for many years and

as a kid I had the privilege of playing alongside future Hall of Famer Cam Neely. But unfortunately, or fortunately, as much as I tried I was not good enough as a goalie and baseball came along. Compared to the men sitting behind me I did not play much ball growing up, we didn't have high school baseball, or any serious travel ball. I played no more than 15 to 20 baseball games a summer until I was 16. But I did play lots of fast-pitch softball with my dad and my three brothers. All were in the same uniform. That was probably one of my brothers were telling me they taught me everything I know about baseball. Some of my earliest memories included mom sitting in the stands cheering while we all played. My mom Mary, my dad Larry, and my brothers Barry, Carey, and Gary, the rhyming family. I'm sure I did learned something from my brothers. I also learned from my Little League coaches and with the Pit Metals Lions Lauren Upsell, Paul Hamlin and of course, my dad. And also my time with a good Portland Reds in 1983-4 with coaches Don Archer, Bill Green, and Wayne Martin. But even after playing with him and then in 84 for Team British Columbia in a tournament, and Team Canada in World Youth tournament. I apparently didn't understand all the rules of the game. I had a lot of learning to do. My first year in pro ball after being scouted by Bill McKenzie and Jim Fanning, I was playing just 40 miles from where we stand today in Utica, New York for the Utica Blue Sox, managed by Ken Brett, George's brother and a great big leaguer in his own right, and former major league coach of many years, Gene Glenn. I'm gonna share a story about that year, I was on first, Gino was coaching, third base, put the hit and run on. I took off a second, of course I didn't peek to see where the ball was hit and as I'm rounding second heading the third, Gino's screaming at me "get back". Well it turned out the ball was hit in the air to right center, so I got back slid in easily safe, called out. Got up to tell the ump he's blind and a bunch of other choice words. And Ken Brett, who was at first coaching that day grabbed my arm and said Larry, you're out. I argued with him too. It turns out, getting back to first base, you're not to cut right behind the pitcher's mound, through the infield, which is what I already touched second once, why the heck do I got to touch it again? Needless to say I learned the rules, and eventually how to run the bases. I like telling that story cause I know there's kids out there that maybe don't have the ability or experience but I tell them to keep fighting because me standing here right now is proof that hard work can pay off. The minor leagues are where most of my baseball learning took place, call it on the job training, and I got quite a bit of it. My stops are in Utica, Burlington, Iowa, West Palm Beach, Jacksonville, and Indianapolis, along with four years of winter instructional ball and a season and winter ball in Mexico, I always went into a new team, thinking there was always more to learn. And there always was. So many coaches helped me along the way in my early days, along with Ken and Gino fielding from JR Minor, hitting from Ralph Row. All my baserunning from Tommy Harper, a little bit everything from Mike Quade. Those are just a few as there's way too many to mention. I always be grateful that the Montreal Expos took a chance on me and gave me an opportunity to play baseball professionally. To all the Expo fans and people in Montreal. It was a great honor to put on the Expo uniform or represent my home country. I enjoyed many years in Montreal, none of them as good as that 1994 team. We all lost hope that year from the work stoppage and nobody knows what would have happened that year. But I still imagine what it would have been like to bring a World Series to Quebec. To the fans hoping for their team to return to Montreal, I join you and hoping before long, a Major League Baseball returns to your beautiful city. In 1993 the Expos were in Denver when the Rockies hosted their first home games, even as a visiting player, I never forgot what it felt like to be in a ballpark surrounded by 85,000 people. The scenery of Denver nestled in the mountains reminded me where I grew up in Maple Ridge. So as the 94 Expos teams slowly dispersed in some way it felt natural to find my way to another great team in the Colorado Rockies. I feel privileged that I'm here right now in Cooperstown, representing the Rockies franchise, and their fans. I think the Mumford and McMorris families, for bringing me to Denver, and the GM at the time, Bob Gephardt for ironing out all the details. I had 10 great years wearing the CR on my cap, perhaps none better than the first 1995 when we won

the first wildcard. What an incredible way to be introduced to the fans of the Rockies. I thank the Rockies fans for always showing your support, and I hope real soon, that that ticker tape parade comes rolling down Blake Street. And finally the St. Louis Cardinals. I only spent a little over a year in your uniform, but you made me feel like it was many, many more. It was a thrill every time I wore the birds on the bat jersey. And every time I took the field in front of that sea of red. Thank you, Cardinal Nation, for welcoming me into your family. My major league managers Buck Rogers, Felipe Alou, Tom Runnels, Don Baylor, Clint Hurdle, Buddy Bell, Jim Leyland and Hall of Famer, Tony La Russa, I thank you for putting my name in the line item you and every one of your coaching staffs made me a better player. I'm always asked who was your favorite teammate me an impossible question to answer as I've had so many I enjoy, and so many others that had a big impact on me. Thanks to all my teammates, both in the majors, and the minors. I learned a lot from you, and for much of my opponents too. Both what to do and what not to do. But I do want to give a shout out to a few guys who took me in during my rookie days in 1989 with the Expos. Tom Foley, Spike Owen, Mike Fitzgerald Dave Martinez, especially Tim Wallach. They all welcomed me into the fraternity of being a major leaguer and made the transition from the minors to the majors, smooth and easy. I was very grateful for that. I had the same agents my entire career. And I thank the Speakers of Sport Agency, Bob Giloolley, Jim Bronner, Bob Greenwald, Pete Smith, one guy by me the entire journey Pat Rooney. Pat has since retired and now Barry Meister has the honor of putting up with me. And to my family, my three brothers and their families. You were all going to be here for this occasion, and it would have been a long overdue family reunion. But unfortunately COVID-19 took that away from most of you. I hope we can have that reunion real soon and I thank all of you for your love and support throughout the years. So Mom and Dad. I'm the youngest of four boys. and I think it's safe to say neither one of you had it easy and raising us, especially those other three clowns. You supported all of us in our sporting adventures hockey softball volleyball, baseball, football bowling, whatever it was you always allowed us to give it a go. Looking back, I don't even mind that I got the hand-me-down equipment after the other three wore it out. School was a struggle for me., but I always felt supported by you both, even when I didn't come home with a report card full of A's or B's. Or C's, D's and F's, I realize that. When Bob Rogers from the Expos came into town and offered me a contract to play pro ball for 1500 dollars US, you simply said, go for it. Allowed me to hop in my Pathfinder and drive across North America from Maple Ridge to Florida, and give it a try. That 1500 was about two grand Canadian at the time and I felt like I just won the lottery. But when life in the minor leagues was difficult, you always did your best to float me a little money, it meant a lot. You're both always there giving your support and love. I sort of sometimes I looked up the stands during the game, you two look the way more nervous than I was on the field, you're always into every second of every game, and knowing you were following along helped me enjoy my career so much more. I thank and love you both. To Krista and Angela, you gave me amazing children. I'm a proud daddy because of your both. Broxton , Canaan, and Shana, it's hard to believe how time flies and how old you all are now, it seems like just yesterday when dirty diapers were stinking up the house and toys were laying around just waiting to be stepped on. All great memories of course. You guys can't cry. It was always hard coming home after a tough loss, or when I didn't play well, but starting when Broxton ended the world in 1993 to my final game in 05. Those feelings would always disappear once I saw any of you three. I'm so proud to call three of you, my children, happiness and love fills my heart every single day because of you guys. a couple other important people. My best friend Chris from my early days in the Expos organization to today. You've always had my back. And my girlfriend Donna life after baseball has been anything but boring. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Plus you keep me on the right track, eating right and staying healthy, otherwise I wouldn't be fitting into this suit, Trust me. And of course, thank you, Canada, for all your support I've received throughout the years from my home country. I share this honor with every Canadian, and I hope that all you Canadian kids



out there that have dreams of playing in the big leagues that see me here today gives you another reason to go after those dreams. To my adopted home, the United States. I thank you for allowing this Canadian kid to come into your country to live and play your great pastime. I think we're all very fortunate to have two pretty amazing countries side by side. There are too many others to mention, but I'm very hopeful that you all know who you are and know that I'm very grateful for your love, support and friendship over the years. To the entire Class of 2020, taking a little longer to get here, and reach this day. But it has been a complete honor to share it with all of you. I will finish by saying, I've never considered myself a Hall of Famer at anything. Not a thing. I honestly see myself as an average guy, and I'm good with average. I've lived my life trying to never get too high, and never get too low, but to stand on this stage right now and tell you that I'm feeling average would be a complete lie. My feet have not touched the ground all day, and I'll say this again. This honor really doesn't happen without every single one of my teammates. Doesn't happen without any of them, and in my eyes every one of your names are on that plaque as well. I am truly honored, humbled to be part of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and it is a privilege to be part of this family right here. Thank you all so much.

### **Derek Jeter**

Thank you. For the past 20 months, you know everybody asked me, how's the Hall of Fame speech coming? I'm going to be honest with you for 18 of those months my response was I haven't even started yet. You know when I finally began, I had no idea how to even start, you know, where do you begin? Who do you thank and, quite frankly, considering the circumstances, who am I going to be saying it to and in front of? You know what can I say in 15 minutes that can cover my entire career. You want to say something meaningful impactful and memorable, finally I just said, you know, stop overthinking it, and just write down how you feel. So let me let me start by saying congratulations. Congratulations to Larry, Ted, and the late Marvin Miller, I mean I'm so honored to be inducted with you guys and link to you forever. The Major League Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2020. Congrats to the award winners, Nick Cafardo, Dick Kaegel, Ken Harrelson, Al Michael and David Montgomery. Thank you to Jane Forbes Clark, Jeff Idelson, Jon, Whitney and the entire Hall of Fame staff for, amongst other things, your ability to maneuver and adjust. Thank you to the baseball writers, all but the one of you who voted for me. And everyone who, who covered me during my career you know the beat writers to colonists, TV and radio and especially thank you to the Hall of Famers. You know those that are here with us today, the ones that couldn't make it. The men I played with played against for and looked up to and admire, you know, when the Induction Ceremony was cancelled, and then later was postponed. You know everyone told me. No, don't worry about it, it's gonna happen eventually. And it's gonna feel the same. You're right, but I do want to point out one thing as you saw earlier, you know the Hall of Fame is special because of those who are in it, and we've lost way too many Hall of Famers over the last 20 months, and these are all Hall of Famers that would have, or could have been here and selfishly for that reason it's not the same thing. Because when you know everyone asked about nerves they assume it's because of the speech, what I may say or not say the number of people in attendance or watching at home, no, no, the nerves are because these guys behind me right now, and all of those that are a part of the Hall of Fame family, because you know the great thing about baseball is its history. And that's what makes it so special. I wanted to share two quick stories, two special moments I had with the Hall of Fame family early on in my career, you know, the first was in 1996, after we won the World Series I was attending the baseball writers, the New York chapter the baseball writers dinner in New York, and I was seated on that day next to someone I had never met before. And we sat there for roughly three hours, if I would be honest with you I can't recall any details of our conversation, but I do know it was a time that I'll always cherish, because you know when you talk about class and you talk about elegance. This person was, was and still is the epitome of the fact that she even knew who I was

and was willing to listen to what I had to say, made me feel like I was the most special person in the world. You know that person was Mrs. Rachel Robinson. Second moment was in 1999, it was at the All Star game in Boston and pregame they were, they were honoring the all century players, so all the players past and the present, were gathering around Ted Williams so he could throw out the first pitch and I sort of just hovered around the back because quite frankly I was in awe and I didn't want to get in the way. I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around and someone told me. Hey, I wanted to meet you. I say shh, you wanted to meet me? That was the very first time I met the great Hank Aaron. Now you might wonder what's the reason I bring these moments up is because these two moments in particular is when I realized that it's more than a game and just since you know the greatest people, and players in this game the Hall of Fame family. They're watching so I wanted their approval, you know, during my career I wanted to make Mrs. Robinson proud I wanted to make Hank Aaron proud. I wanted to make all you behind me proud not of statistics, proud of how I played the game, how I carried myself and how I respect the game and those before and after. So I guess the relevant question is, you know how did I get on the day to sit next Mrs. Robinson, and on the field at Fenway Park with Hank Aaron and, ultimately, you know on this stage, you know I'm on the stage, the result of many others among that stage has resulted in support and love of countless people who for me you know the love of the game, and the success I had playing it starts and ends with family. You know I was first introduced to competition in the game of baseball by my dad. You know I vividly remember going to watch him play shortstop for his corporate softball team. And I don't think I've ever told him this but I was amazed at how good he was and how he stood out in front of me, it stood out in front of everyone else and above everyone else. He was my first idol, you know, wanting and watching wanting to be my dad know him sitting me down afterwards and educating me, you know about the history of the game, how to play and more importantly how to win. And then afterwards, you know, He pulled out show me his scrapbook from college to prove to me he knew what he was talking about now, there's a lot of people listening so I'm not going to divulge how many pages you had in your scrapbook here today. I fell in love with the Yankees, you know, I was watching games in the summer, with my grandmother, Dorothy Connors, who is here today. In West Milford, New Jersey. I played Wiffle ball on our yard in full Yankee pinstripes pretending to be Dave Winfield, that I'd break a window occasionally she'd be all right with it, you know, and at the same time, you know, I learned the importance of going to work every single day and doing your job no matter what, for my grandfather William "Sonny" Connors. Know when I, when I got a little older, he's jumped the fence my house in Michigan and I walked to the baseball fields Kalamazoo Central High School, and we practiced as a family. My dad pitched, my mom and my sister Sharlee shagging in the outfield, and then we go and do the same thing for her on the softball field, you know, that was fun for us. That's what we enjoyed it's how we bonded as a family, quite frankly, it's how I got better, but you know it was more than just practice. It was the lessons that my parents taught me. Mom, you taught me any dream is attainable as long as you work harder than anyone else. You know you drilled that in my head over and over and over and you led me to believe it. You told me never to make excuses you wouldn't allow me to use the word can't. You show up to work, stay positive, good things will happen and ultimately it's going to rub off on other people. Dad, you've been the voice of reason. Now you've taught me to be patient, listen and think before I speak. You always been there for advice and to this day the first person I go to. I know when I retired, you said you played every game with me, and I know you recall, you know, from time to time telling me, no, you keep building that resume, right, and look where it's gotten us today. You know both of you convinced me I could achieve absolutely anything. You know, if I set my mind to it, and if it meant more to me than anyone else told me to prove people wrong. To this day I remember every time I was doubted I made and I still make a mental note so I was and I'm going to prove doubters wrong. Know, it's what drove me and is still drives me today so I love you guys so much. Thank you for making me who I am. My sister Sharlee. Did I miss you

growing up because I was away started my professional career, but you know we've continued to get closer and closer over the years you know you're a fighter, you're independent, you're supportive, you're stubborn like me at times. But I tell you one thing you always look out for and you have your brother's back and I've watched become an unbelievable mother to Jalen, and I love you I couldn't be more proud of you and the woman you've become. Look, you know, ultimately it boils down to you have a dream you believe in that dream you surround yourself with people who are going to encourage you to support you and challenge you, be honest with you, and help nurture that dream it started with my family, but it included so many more, you know, it's literally impossible for me to name everyone in a short period of time and, and I'll reach out to others privately. However, there are a few I want to mention quickly those who taught me how to be a professional and help me get here today. Dick Groch, you know the scout who first saw me, I know you're watching at home Dick I honestly don't know what you saw in a skinny shortstop from Kalamazoo, but um, you actually foreshadowed this moment and thank you so much, because that was, that's where it all started. Especially front office members managers coaches, trainers, Board staff with the Yankees Gene Michel, Bob Watson, Brian Cashman Bill Livesy, Mark Newman, Don Zimmer, Willie Randolph...Will I see you, Willie. Reggie Jackson. Reg, look, we were just talking about this this morning. But every time Reggie would come spend time with the team. I'd call him over to my locker I'd say Reg sit down what you got for me today, and then we go back and forth and I'd get on him and Reg you remember your response? Your response was you're not a Hall of Famer yet. Yeah, so I guess I can get on your now, huh? Gary Dembo, Brian Butterfield, I mean you two are the most responsible for my development as a player man there was times when I, when I made, I thought I made a huge mistake turning professional because I was completely overmatched. And you guys helped me restore my confidence it was fundamentals and repetition. And I owe you so much. My trainers, Gene Monahan Steve Donahue. I see you here, I just want to apologize now sorry I lied to you for all those years, but it was my responsibility, go out there and play every day. My managers Buck Showalter, Joe Girardi, and especially Mr T. And Mr T thanks for taking a chance on me and trusting me at such a young age, or at least making me think you trust me. My teammates, my brothers, man I was blessed to play alongside some of the best to ever play the game, you know, some were in the Hall of Fame. Some behind me right now. I especially want to point out Gerald Williams, Jorge Posada, Mariano, Andy, Bernie, Tino, CC, Hideki, I mean you guys in particular was special to me because I never had to worry about what's your number one priority was, and that was winning. My agent Casey Close. Case man, thanks for all your guidance through my career man and still to this day, you know, we've been through it all, at least we thought we've been through it all right, some always comes up but you know there's so much more yet to come. The boss, Mr Steinbrenner and the entire Steinbrenner family, Joan, Hank, Hal, Jenny and Jessica. And thank you for always making me feel like I was a part of your family. Throughout my playing career more importantly, beyond, there hasn't been a day when you guys have made us feel like my entire family made us feel like we were part of your family, you know, being able to play parts of 23 seasons with one organization is the only organization ever wanted to play for you because of the boss, and because of the family, everyone mentions how difficult it is to play in New York, and especially for the Yankees, you know, the boss he pushed me he challenged you. At times he publicly embarrassed you, but you know he did it to bring out the best in you, He wanted to know if I had what it took to play for, and ultimately lead the Yankees. Know, I was able to have success, because we had a shared mindset, only thing that mattered was winning. And I had one goal during my career. And that was the win more than everyone else. We did. Which brings me to the Yankee fans. There was only one thing in my life I wanted to be. And that was the shortstop for the New York Yankees, and now I'm a Yankee forever. And, without question, you help me get here today as much as any individual I've mentioned that you can't be fooled. You know you're passionate and loyal knowledgeable vocal, challenging and supporting you know there's a, there's a huge

responsibility that comes with wearing a Yankee uniform. Just because you have it on doesn't guarantee you anything. No, you have to earn it, you know you demand that I earned it every single day, whether it's during the season, or in the offseason, I felt as though I was representing you and I was representing all of New York. I did that in the best possible way I knew how. And I wanted to prove to you I belong. You kept pushing me to prove it over and over again. I was always most comfortable on the field, especially at Yankee Stadium playing in front of you, and I wanted you to be able to count on me. To this day, especially right now in this moment I still represent you and it's been one of the greatest honors of my life. My girls, Hannah, Bella and Story. You know this day puts an exclamation point on my playing career, which was my first dream, you know through you all with you all. I'm living another one. Hannah you thought you married into retirement. It didn't take long for me to get back, back at it but I know you didn't envision that far but we've been through so much over the past five years. You are the strongest person I know, which I'm sure you're going to say is, is required when dealing with me. I mean you're thoughtful you're caring you've been an incredible wife and even more amazing mother. And I couldn't be luckier, let me say it again, let me clarify, I couldn't be luckier, that our paths crossed when they did. Love you so much, and you know there's been nothing more fulfilling in my life than building our future and our family together, you know, during my career I always wanted to make my family proud. I never wanted to disappoint me stress I always wanted to, I don't know if I was always successful, I wanted to. Bella and Story. I want you to know that your dad was far from perfect. I made my fair share of mistakes on and off the field but through it all, I tried to do the right thing. I found something I was passionate about. And I worked harder than anyone else. And I didn't take any shortcuts to achieve it. I have zero regrets in my career, other than the fact I didn't get a chance to share it with you. But what I will share is my story. Most of it won't be what I accomplished on the field, it'd be the lessons I learned off of it. I hope I always make you proud, proud of because of who I am as a result of the people I mentioned, and the experiences I've had with them, you know, for so many years I tried my best to represent New York and the Yankee organization in the best light possible. Now I represent, you know you have your features ahead of you. I want you to dream big and I want you to believe it, know that I'm here to support guide you protect you, most important I'm here to love you. And time I want you to, to fight I want you to find someone who inspires you, and then when the time is right, I want you to inspire others. I love you girls more than you ever know. Finally I want to conclude with a message to the players in Major League Baseball right now and the young kids who may be starting out with a dream just like I had, you know this is a game that requires sacrifice dedication, discipline and focus. You know it's a game of failure, it teaches you teamwork, it teaches you humility. But one common thread with all of us here on stage is that we understand that there's no one individual bigger than the game. The game goes on. And it goes on because of the great fans we have, so take care of it, protect it, respect it, don't take the time you have to play for granted. And remember the most important thing, like I said earlier, it's more than just a game, you know, the greatest ever play in the Hall of Fame family they're all watching, and I personally can't wait to welcome a few of you on this very stage. Just as I as I have been by so many others. So thank you all once again, it's been a hell of a ride.