

## HONORING REGGIE JACKSON



Reggie Jackson is a former Major League Baseball player who played 21 professional seasons, and was inducted into the national Baseball Hall of Fame in 1993. His first ballot Hall of Fame vote of 93.6% is the 16th best in the game's history. Jackson's 563 career home runs and 1702 RBI rank 14th and 25th respectively, and he was voted to the American League All Star Team fourteen times.

One of a handful of athletes recognizable by his first name only, "Reggie" also earned the moniker "Mr. October" for his World Series heroics with the Oakland As and New York Yankees in the 1970's. His 5 home runs in the 1977 Series set a World Series record that still stands, and has been equaled only twice in the 40 years since.

Reggie helped Oakland win 5 consecutive American League West titles, 3 consecutive A.L. pennants and 3 consecutive World Series Championships. 2 years later he was in the Bronx, helping the Yankees win 4 A.L. East titles, 3 A.L. pennants, and 2 consecutive World Series Championships. He will forever be remembered for his 1977 World Series feat of 4 consecutive home runs on 4 consecutive pitches from 4 different pitchers; three, of course, coming in the final game.

In addition to his 14 All Star selections, Jackson was the A.L. MVP in 1973, the World Series MVP twice, a 2-time Silver Slugger Award winner, and the 1977 recipient of the Babe Ruth Award. Perhaps most significant of all was Jackson's hiring as Special Assistant to the Principal Owner by George Steinbrenner, despite

their tumultuous relationship, a position he has held for more than 25 years with the most valuable franchise in professional sports.

Born in 1946 in the Philadelphia suburb of Wyncote, PA, Reginald Martinez Jackson was a gifted athlete, but never forgot his father's words: "Sports are great, son, but your legs will give out someday. Get an education. No one can ever take that away from you." He attended Cheltenham High School and Arizona State University before his selection by the Kansas City Athletics as the number 2 overall pick in the 1966 Major League Baseball draft. His legs never did give out, but neither did his father's words; following his retirement from baseball, Reggie founded the Mr. October Foundation for Kids.

For more than 20 years, his foundation's mission has been to provide disadvantaged youth with access to technology and STEM curriculum, thereby leveling the educational playing field, and enhancing the greater good of our communities and nation. To date, the Foundation has helped nearly half a million minority youth to gain access to STEM curricula, and helped thousands more to earn degrees in various STEM-related disciplines. Reggie's current passion for helping our youth receive a relevant education is as strong as his passion ever was for the game of baseball.