

BASEBALL ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2020



During the last MLBPAA Legends for Youth Clinic before the pandemic on February 29, former Twins shortstop Lenny Faedo shared his wisdom with local Lakeland, Fla. youth.



By Dan Foster / MLBPAA



Dear Baseball Family,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our world in such extreme and unprecedented ways, so I am reaching out with a message of health and togetherness, as well as sharing the MLBPAA's plans during this time.

The Alumni Association is taking this

LETTER FROM THE CEO

MLBPAA COVID-19 UPDATE

situation very seriously, and the safety and well-being of our former player members, event and clinic attendees and employees is our top priority. We have cancelled all in-person events from March through the end of May, at the time of publication. Our employees continue to work remotely and remain accessible, while we continue to push forward our mission and serve as a resource for alumni members.

I want to share with you a campaign recently hosted on our social media channels, borne to lift spirits and encourage the baseball family. You can find this video series on the MLBPAA Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media platforms, with the hashtag #MLBPAAHomeBase. Look back to hear familiar faces with motivating and inspirational messages, as well as our sincere gratitude to those fighting this

illness on the front lines, and continuing to put themselves in harm's way for the greater good.

We continue to update our organizational policies dependent on the best available information and direction provided by government, public health and other decisional authorities. For more information, please visit mlb.com/mlbpaa/covid-19.

I wish you and your families the best during this time, and look forward to reconvening together once this subsides.

Best regards,

Dan Foster, MLBPAA CEO

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF BASEBALL LEGENDS



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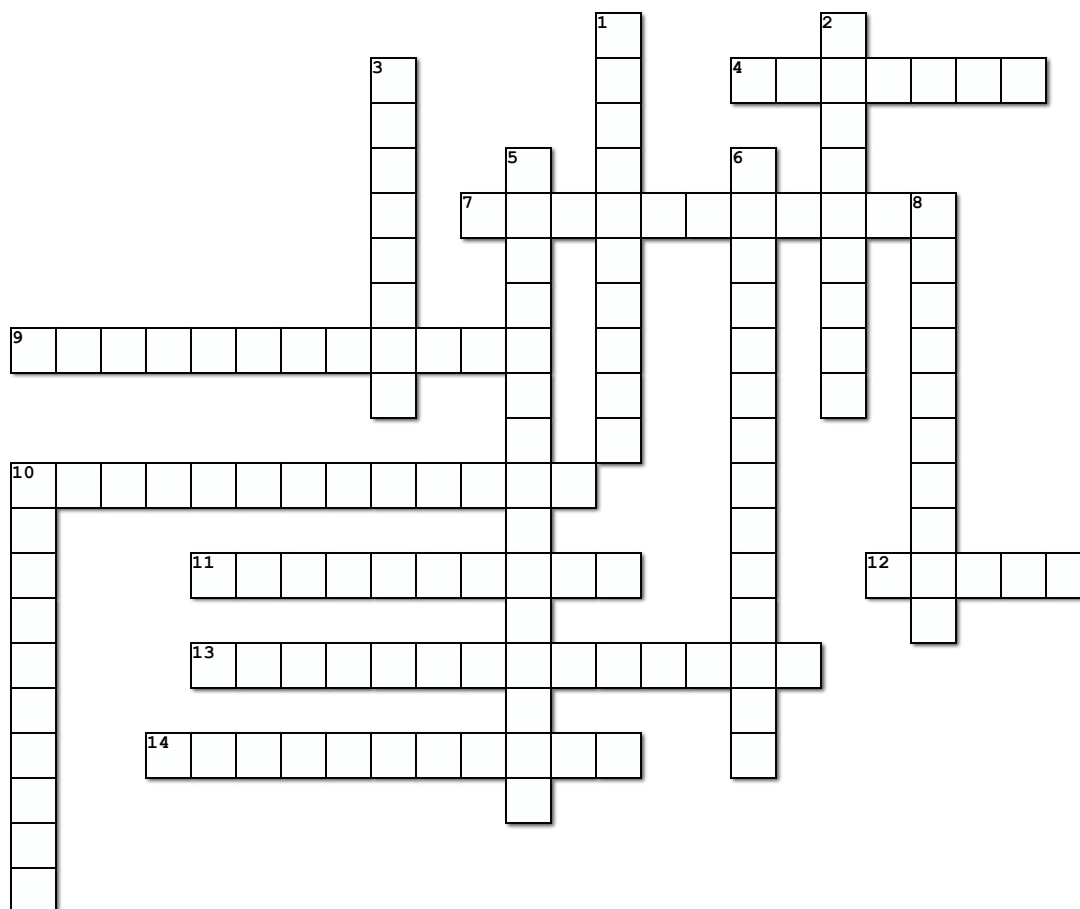
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All checks should be made payable to the MLBPAA and sent to:

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INFIELD OF DREAMS

Complete the crossword puzzle below – all answers are infield-related!



ACROSS

4. Last Indians player to win an AL MVP Award
7. Mets franchise hits, runs and RBIs leader
9. Marlins hit streak record holder (35)
10. This Red Sox is tied for most Heart and Hustle Awards won in a career, with seven
11. New MLBPA board member and former Giants 3B
12. Multi-generational baseball family of infielders
13. World Series unassisted triple play hero
14. Record holder for most RBIs in a single game, with 11

DOWN

1. Triple crown winner traded from Philadelphia Athletics to Boston Red Sox
2. 2002 World Series MVP
3. The final out from Joaquin Arias to Brandon Belt to secure this pitcher's perfect game
5. First Twins player inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame
6. The Human Vacuum Cleaner
8. Peyton Manning's Former Teammate
10. 6-4-3

Answers listed on page 8



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Bill Bathe joins Arizona Diamondbacks broadcasters Todd Walsh (left) and Bob Brenly (right).

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BILL BATHE

By Kendall Meisner / MLBPA

"If you would have asked me toward the end of my career if I was going to be a fireman, I would have laughed at you," former catcher Bill Bathe said.

Just like any passionate little leaguer, most aspire to play ball professionally. For Bill Bathe, this dream was no different - even if he ended up on a route less expected.

"I realized at an early age I had a little bit better ability than other people and really stuck with baseball," Bathe said.

Growing up in Willard, Calif., Bathe dreamed of playing for the Oakland Athletics, and after his college days at Pepperdine University, he did just that.

In the 1981 amateur draft, the Oakland A's drafted him in the 8th round; he made his professional debut that following summer.

Coming through the A's organization alongside names like Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire, Bathe broke into the big leagues in 1986. Three years later he signed with the San Francisco Giants, playing in the 1989 Bay Area World Series - better known as the iconic earthquake World Series.

"The highlight of my career really was that [World Series]," Bathe said.

After two years with the Giants, Bathe split time between multiple teams, eventually landing in Japan. After two years overseas, he had a brief stint with the San Diego Padres.



Former MLB catcher Bill Bathe as a Fire Captain for the Tucson Fire Department.

At that particular time in his career, Bathe felt he could offer more to his life than playing baseball, and it was time to move on from the game he loved.

Luckily, he found his next passion fairly quickly, but the transition out of baseball is never an easy task.

"I started looking at the fire department because it had the same attributes that baseball did," said Bathe. "It's a team atmosphere, but it's a game of life and death versus a game of baseball, so it intrigued me."

Becoming a firefighter was never the career Bathe originally envisioned, but his playing experience set a certain tone for what his new chapter would look like.

The magnitude 6.8 earthquake that struck the San Francisco Bay area, just moments before Game 3 of the 1989 World Series, sparked something in Bathe that would inspire his career after baseball.

"When we had the earthquake, we went out and helped people, and that kind of lit a fire in me," Bathe said. "I never had

any idea that this would be a career that I would do."

Roughly one year after the conclusion of his playing career, Bathe decided to devote all of his attention to being a firefighter and joined the Tucson Fire Department in Tucson, Ariz.

"I had looked at baseball as a chapter of my life," Bathe said. "Now here's a great opportunity to give back to the community."

Within two years at the fire department, he became a paramedic. After five-and-a-half years, he was named Fire Captain.

"It almost sounds kind of corny but I felt like I was giving back for all the fun that I had for the first part of my life playing pro ball," Bathe said.

This new chapter hasn't been easy for Bathe, bringing new challenges and obstacles. However, it was always worth it.

"I've seen all of it," Bathe said. "The absolute tragedy of children dying, all the way to delivering a baby in a parking

Continued on next page...



Bill and his wife Alexa Bathe at Chase Field.

lot. It's just so rewarding on a different level than it was for baseball."

Now, 26 years later and at age 59, Bill Bathe decided it's time to retire from the Tucson Fire Department on April 29th, 2020.

Although he is retiring, he isn't ready to stop making an impact. In his next chapter, his main focus is being a Medicare Broker, something he started three years ago.

"It's another way to help people," Bathe said. "I just didn't want to retire and sit around and be nothing, so I thought 'what's another way that I can help people but be on my own schedule.'"

Now licensed in Arizona, California, and Texas, Bathe continues to find passion in his daily work and manages to stay active and busy – just in a different way than his days in a uniform. ★

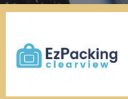


Bathe in his early playing days with the Oakland Athletics.

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Ed Kranepool's 1969 New York Mets World Series Championship Player Ring
(Kranepool LOA)

// \$62,475



Andre Dawson's actual 1987 National League Most Valuable Player Award
(Presented to and personally owned by Dawson)

// \$115,430



1976 Original Jim Palmer Cy Young Award
(Palmer LOA)

// \$90,000



1986 Keith Hernandez Personally Owned New York Mets World Series Trophy

// \$50,190



1963 Sandy Koufax Game Used and Signed Los Angeles Dodgers Road Jersey
(MEARS A 9.5 & Beckett) Cy Young and MVP Season

// \$420,000



1984 Reggie Jackson Game-Used, Signed and Inscribed Bat Used for Career Home Runs 501 and 502
(PSA/DNA 10, Beckett & Autry LOA)

// \$39,600

For appraisal or consignment requests, contact **Chris Torgusen** at Chris@mlbpaa.com or call (727) 403-4085.

MLBPAA PROVIDES POSITIVITY, ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA MOVEMENT

Alex Matyufir / MLBPAA



Reggie Sanders offers words of encouragement for the #MLBPAAHomeBase social media campaign in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Seemingly overnight, our world changed. Our favorite restaurants closed their doors; our grocery stores limited the number of people who could enter the building at a time; our favorite sports were put on hold and we were advised to not leave our homes.

With the onset and rapid spread of the coronavirus, we changed the way we went about our daily lives. We had to get used to a spring without baseball. While more than a month of quarantine was difficult, we decided to offer encouragement and hope in an environment that attempted to strip us of those feelings. The MLBPAA commissioned

some good friends to join the #MLBPAAHomeBase movement on social media. The purpose of this movement was to remind fans and players alike that baseball will be back and better than ever.

Familiar faces such as Andre Dawson, Terry Francona and Clint Hurdle used positivity to remind everyone that while our current environment may be difficult, we can persevere together.

"The game has provided comfort and recovery many, many times over the decades and it will do it again, now," said Hurdle in his inspiration video.

We thank those of you who followed along on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and hope these words of encouragement from some of our favorites in baseball provided perspective and hope during an unprecedented time. Stay safe, stay healthy and we look forward to seeing you in the ballpark soon.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 4. Al Rosen 7. David Wright 9. Luis Castillo 10. Dustin Pedroia 11. Pedro Feliz 12. Boone 13. Bill Wambst 14. Tony Lazzeri

Down: 1. Jimmie Foxx 2. Troy Glaus 3. Matt Cain 5. Harmon Killebrew 6. Brooks Robinson 8. Todd Helton 10. Double Play



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MLBPAA MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the game of baseball, raise money for charity, inspire and educate youth through positive sport images and protect the dignity of the game through former Major League players.



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TO ALL THE FRONT-LINE WORKERS RISKING THEIR LIVES AND THEIR HEALTH

THANK YOU FOR CARING FOR AND SACRIFICING FOR US.

THANK YOU FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE.

THANK YOU FOR ADJUSTING EACH DAY TO THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT.

The Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association tips its cap to you.

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