

September 19, 2019

Chairman, Modern Baseball Era Committee  
National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum  
25 Main Street  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

**Whereas**, as the executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) from 1966–82, the late Marvin Miller oversaw the game's biggest changes since racial integration by dismantling the reserve clause, and in other ways enhancing the power of players to determine their pay and working conditions, and

**Whereas**, Miller spent his career in baseball firmly establishing that the talents of major league players did not exempt them from basic workplace protections as well as protection under labor and other U.S. laws, and

**Whereas**, in 1968, Miller led a committee of players that negotiated the first collective bargaining agreement in the history of professional sports delivering a new pension plan for the players, and

**Whereas**, in 1970, Miller helped players negotiate the right to arbitration to resolve grievances - an achievement Miller considered the most significant of the union's early years - and the impartial dispute resolution process paved the way for nearly all of the gains the players would achieve in ensuing years, and

**Whereas**, in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which went into effect in 1973, the players gained a limited right allowing them to veto trades if they had at least 10 years in the majors and five with their current club, and a reduction in the amount of service time necessary to reject an assignment to the minors from eight years to five, and

**Whereas**, in October, 1975 with Miller's guidance, a case was presented before an arbitrator that players should not be tied to one club forever, and the arbitrator ruled that a player could become a free agent had that player not signed a contract but was forced to continue playing for that team for a year, and

**Whereas**, he secured substantial raises in the minimum salary, initially to \$10,000, standardized contracts, increased meal money, a formalized structure for grievances, and new scheduling rules, and

**Whereas**, he ensured that players got much fairer compensation as Major League Baseball (MLB) attendance and revenues greatly increased, and

**Whereas**, during his tenure, the average salary of a major league player rose from \$19,000 in 1966 to over \$326,000 in 1982, and

**Whereas**, many argue that under Miller's leadership the MLBPA became the most successful labor union in the country, and

**Whereas**, in 1992, former Dodgers' broadcaster Red Barber called Miller one of the three most important figures in baseball history, along with Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, and

**Whereas**, in 2017, University of Wisconsin Professor of Economics Michael Hauptert wrote, "The unionization of professional athletes has been the most important labor relations development in professional sports since their inception," and

**Whereas**, Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig told the Associated Press in 2007, "The criteria for non-playing personnel is the impact they made on the sport. Therefore, Marvin Miller should be in the Hall of Fame on that basis. Maybe there are not a lot of my predecessors who would agree with that, but if you're looking for people who make an impact on the sport, yes, you would have to say that," and

**Whereas**, in his recent book *For the Good of the Game*, Commissioner Selig stated that "Marvin empowered players" and conceded that "We [the owners] should have understood our economic system was from a different time and no longer worked. It was an anachronism, and we should have found a way to work with players to replace it." Selig again declared that "Marvin Miller should be in the Hall of Fame - no question about it - and I can't explain why he isn't," and

**Whereas**, respected broadcaster and student of the game Bob Costas observed about Miller, "There is no non-player more deserving of the Hall of Fame," and

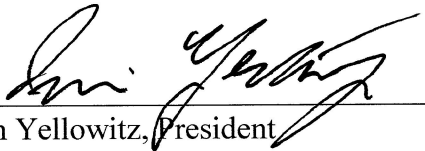
**Whereas**, former MLB Commissioner Fay Vincent said upon learning of Miller's death in 2012, "I think he's the most important baseball figure of the last 50 years. He changed not just the sport but the business of the sport permanently, and he truly emancipated the baseball player - and in the process all professional athletes. Prior to his time, they had few rights," and

**Whereas**, there have been a number of failed attempts to induct Marvin Miller into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, and

**Whereas**, the undersigned *New York Labor History Association* was founded in 1976 by trade unionists, academics, students, archivists, educators, labor editors, attorneys, and retirees, mostly from New York State. The Association encourages the study of workers and their organizations. It serves as a bridge between the past and the present, between trade unionists and academics. Our members include a wide range of individuals and unions interested in retrieving workers' history and relating it to present problems and challenges facing workers. The Association has presented programs about baseball's labor history.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the New York Labor History Association strongly urges the Modern Baseball Era Committee to elect Marvin Miller to the National Baseball Hall of Fame at the next session of the Baseball Winter Meetings.

NEW YORK LABOR HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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