

## **HENRY AARON, 1934-2021**

A giant of the sports world has left us: Henry “Hank” Aaron.

“Hammering Hank” Aaron was one of the greatest major-league baseball players of all time. Best known for breaking Babe Ruth’s life-time home run record – on April 8, 1974, Aaron hit his 715th home run, surpassing Ruth’s 714 – he was also a skilled all-rounder who excelled at the game he loved.



In addition to his superlative athletic talents, Aaron was, in his quiet, understated way, a role model for minority kids everywhere who dreamed of making their names in what has been often been referred to as “America’s Game.” He experienced prejudice and bigotry as he made his way from the Negro Baseball League to the National

League’s Atlanta Braves, where he spent most of his athletic career. He weathered the hurricane of racist hatred directed at him when he approached and then toppled Ruth’s home run record. He comported himself with dignity and grace on and off the baseball diamond.

Henry Aaron faced the evils of Jim Crow and “separate-but-equal” systemic racism and rose to the height of his chosen profession. In 2002 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor – a sure sign, if one was still needed – of the important and undeniable role he played in America’s sporting and cultural life.

We are grateful for his achievements and his example. Hank Aaron has rounded the bases a final time...and headed home.

*Mil gracias y bendiciones,*

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