

## NEWSLETTER

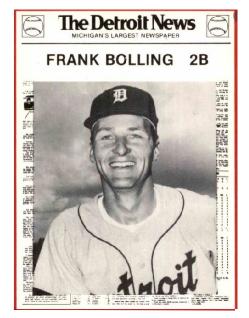
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## **Remembering Frank Bolling**

by Eric Nager, CRPS®

We would like to highlight a long-time client who we are sorry to report passed away last month — Frank Bolling, a Major League Baseball star. As a change, we thought you might like to learn about this incredible man we had the honor of knowing. The statistics from his career were gathered from various online sources. With permission from his family, we share some of his photos and anecdotes from time spent with him.

Frank was from Mobile, Alabama, and was one of many Major Leaguers who came from this baseball town. Among some of the others are Hank Aaron, Willie McCovey, Satchel Paige, Billy Williams, Amos Otis, Ozzie Smith, and his brother, Milt Bolling. He starred at McGill Institute in high school and then at Spring



Hill College before being signed by the Detroit Tigers in 1951. Bolling quickly rose through the minors as a second basemen, hitting over .300 until being promoted to the Majors in 1954.

On opening day, he replaced Johnny Pesky as the starting second baseman and hit in the leadoff spot. His first hit came that day, a home run off Don Larsen of the New York Yankees, who would go on to be the only pitcher so far to throw a perfect game in the World Series. The Tigers won 3-0.

Frank missed the 1955 season because of mandatory military service, but he still played on the All-Army baseball team before returning to the Majors the next season. By 1958 he earned a Gold Glove, awarded to the best fielder at his position, with a .985 fielding percentage. That year he also joined with Milt, a shortstop, as one of only four sets of brother tandems in baseball history to form the double-play combination.

After the 1960 season, the Tigers traded Bolling to the Milwaukee Braves, where he played the final six years of his career. In his first

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season there, he tied a career high by belting 15 homeruns and was selected to the All-Star team, as he was again the following year. In 1963, he led the National League with 17 sacrifices. Frank was such an accomplished bunter that he told us one time his manager called on him to bunt as a pinch hitter, while inheriting an 0-2 count. Frank successfully laid down the bunt.

The 1965 season was the last one in Milwaukee before the Braves moved to Atlanta. Bolling's most memorable Major League hit came in the last home game that season on September 22 when he blasted a grand slam off of Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers. His final season was 1966, the

Braves' first in Atlanta. Frank finished his career with a .254 average, 1,415 hits, 106 home runs and a .982 fielding percentage, including a streak of 72 consecutive games without an error. He still ranks in the top 50 all time in games played at second base, putouts, assists, and double plays turned as a second baseman.

Not surprisingly, Frank earned many awards and honors, including induction into the Mobile and Alabama Sports Halls of Fame. In 2019, he was inducted into the Milwaukee Braves Wall of Honor. The street leading to the minor league stadium in Mobile, Hank Aaron Stadium, is Bolling Brothers Boulevard, named for Frank and Milt.

Frank's legacy extends far beyond the baseball diamond. He was a devoted family man, married to Suanne "Su" Bolling for 60 years. Together they had four children, ten grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Long after he retired from baseball, he received a grant from Major League Baseball to work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America



and create a league for physically and mentally challenged kids to play.

One of my favorite memories of Frank was to watch him speaking to young ballplayers. I had the opportunity to attend a lunch where he spoke to the players from the local minor league team, and he was delighted to give of his time and share tips with the up and coming players. Another is when I called him annually on his November birthday and he recapped the World Series for me with insights only a former Major Leaguer would have. He was a fine man and will be missed.

## Required Minimum Distributions 2020

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** 

As covered in a previous newsletter, the need to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA was waived this year. Normally, this is an annual requirement for those who have reached age 72.

If you already took your RMD this year before the Covid-19 pandemic, it is not too late to put it back and avoid taxation on that distribution.

All returned minimum distributions must be back in your account by August 31.

Please ask us if you have questions or need assistance with this.