

## About Our Honoree



### *Marvin Miller*

Called by Studs Terkel “the most effective union organizer since John L. Lewis,” Marvin Miller’s groundbreaking work in unionizing professional athletes has had a lasting impact on professional sports. Elected head of the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) in 1966, Miller helped the players negotiate the first-ever collective bargaining agreement in professional sports in 1968.

As Executive Director of the MLBPA from 1966 through 1983, Miller was instrumental in virtually ending the system that had bound an athlete to one team forever, called the reserve system. By fighting to replace the reserve system with free agency, he was also responsible for enormous benefits that players received during his tenure, including much higher base salaries, pension funds, licensing rights and revenues, as well as improved player safety.

Miller kept the players united by keeping them informed and educated on the issues that involved not only their professional lives, but their families and futures as well. Miller’s legacy – built on equality, loyalty and fair play – keeps the players united today and makes the MLBPA one of the strongest unions in the country.

As one newspaper reporter wrote: “It could be argued that no individual has made a greater impact [on professional sports] than a slight, former economist for the United Steelworkers of America....Marvin Miller changed the relationship between the owners and players forever.”

As Miller himself has said, that’s “not bad for a skinny kid from Brooklyn.” Marvin Miller is certainly in our Hall of Fame.

Marvin Miller and his wife Terry presently live in Manhattan. Miller has written about his life and tenure as MLBPA head in a book entitled *A Whole Different Ball Game*, which has been called “a top sports book” by Publishers Weekly.