



Al Oliver

“Scoop”, as he was affectionately known in Pittsburgh, had an outstanding career in Major League Baseball. He was named to the All Rookie Team in 1969, won a World Series Championship in 1971 with the Pittsburgh Pirates and later won the 1982 National League Batting Championship with the Montreal Expos. His statistical numbers also speak of the tremendous talent Al possessed on the ball diamond. He was the first player in modern history of the game to bat .300, amass 200 hits and 100 Runs Batted In in one season in both the National and American Leagues. He batted .300 or more in an astonishing 9 consecutive seasons and 11 times in his career. He was a seven time all-star who collected 2,743 career hits, the second most of any eligible player who is not in the Hall of Fame. He also has a lifetime batting average of .303 and totaled 1,326 RBI's. There is a strong possibility that these incredible statistics could lead Al into the Hall of Fame some day.

As talented as Al was in a baseball uniform, he is even more talented as a motivational speaker. Al is a supremely confident man who has strong views on the state of our world and the moral decay that is occurring. He speaks out strongly regarding issues such as violence in our schools, the role of parents in the lives of their children and the need for positive role models in the home. He has been honoured by delivering the eulogy at the funeral of his dear friend and former teammate, Willie Stargell. On the basis of this, the President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Dale Petrosky, asked Al to deliver the invocation at the 2001 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies, a tremendous honour. Al responded with style, dignity and honour.

Oliver's faith and church are very important to him. He grew up attending Beulah Baptist Church, in his hometown of Portsmouth, Ohio where both his father and grandfather were deacons. From the wonderful community of the church and from his parents he attained his strong spiritual values. On Mother's Day 1997 he, like his grandfather and father before him was ordained a deacon. He has since been licensed as a pastor and now delivers sermons from the pulpit on Sundays.

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