



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on the death of Atlanta native and baseball legend James Robert “Red” Moore



Seated from left to right: James Robert “Red” Moore, Norman F. Lumpkin and Lawrence Williams. Standing from left to right: Brian Jordan, Rubye Mims Lucas and Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond

ATLANTA – Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond issued the following statement on the passing of baseball legend James Robert “Red” Moore:

“I am saddened to hear of the passing of the Legendary James “Red” Moore. As a member of the Negro Major Leagues and one of the league’s premier first baseman, Moore was known as a “defensive whiz” who often entertained the crowds before the games by catching the ball behind his back while warming up according to a former manager Buck O’Neal. The only skill

that exceeded his excellent baseball talent was his noble character and commitment to his family and community. The City of Atlanta and I mourn along with his family in regards to this great loss. We are grateful for his life and are all the better for knowing him.” – Michael Julian Bond

Councilmember Bond honored Moore along with baseball greats Norman F. “Geronimo” Lumpkin and Lawrence “Larry” Williams in September of 2014 with proclamations for their sports achievements.

James Robert “Red” Moore was a player in the former Negro League, appearing with many different teams but most substantially with home team Atlanta Black Crackers. He also served with three different All-Star teams and, in 1938, played with the Southern News Services All-American Negro League Baseball Team. In 2006 he was inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame.

Born in Atlanta, Moore began playing after graduating Booker T. Washington High School in 1933 with Atlanta Black Crackers. Over the next six years, Moore also played for the Macon Peaches, Chattanooga Choo-Choos, Schenectady Black Socks, Newark Eagles and the Baltimore Elite Giants, gradually earning a reputation according to *Voices from the Negro Leagues* as perhaps “*the best fielding basement of all time*” in his league.

In 1940, after finishing the regular season in Baltimore, Moore played in a winter season in Los Angeles. Moore registered for military draft in October 1940 and served from 1942 to 1945. For the three years after World War II, he returned to baseball with the Black Crackers earning a mere \$250 a month with a \$1.50 daily food allowance.

In 2006 Moore was among six individuals inducted into the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame. He died at the age of 99 on Saturday, February 6, 2016.

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