



JAMES MARION “JIM” HILL, JR. 1932—2019

Babe Ruth League bids farewell to a legend, James Marion “Jim” Hill, Jr. (White Hall, Arkansas), who passed away on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at the age of 87.

Jim began his affiliation with the Babe Ruth program in 1958, serving in various positions for the Pine Bluff, Arkansas Jr. Babe Ruth League, including League President, Vice President, Board Member and Umpire.

In addition to serving at the local league level, Hill held the positions of Southwest Assistant Regional Commissioner and Babe Ruth League National Umpire Consultant for several years. In 1983, he was elected to the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors as an At-Large Member, a position he held until his passing.

Jim worked many Babe Ruth League District, State, Regional and World Series as Tournament Director, Task Force Member or Groundskeeper.

Hill, an accomplished official for more than 35 years, officiated many sports, including baseball, basketball, and football throughout Arkansas. His umpiring expertise was used for officiating at 14 Babe Ruth World Series covering all age levels.

In 2010, Jim was inducted into the Babe Ruth League, Inc. International Hall of Fame; in 2006, he was inducted into the Southwest Regional Hall of Fame, and was one of the first three members to be put in the Pine Bluff, Jr. Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2015, Hill was awarded the Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed to a Babe Ruth League Volunteer. In 2003, he was named to the AAA Hall of Fame.

Jim’s full-time hobby and passion was taking care of Taylor Field, which is an old WPA ballpark that has attracted six Babe Ruth World Series, a Babe Ruth Girls’ Softball World Series, a Class-A Pro Baseball Club and a 1995 NAABT Tournament, which was telecast on ESPN.

In his long history at Taylor Field, Hill was able to see several great players who called the field home. No doubt, one of the best players was Minnesota Twins Hall of Famer Torii Hunter. Hill and Hunter often spoke highly of each other. Hunter was quoted as saying, *“We have lost a good one. I love that man. He didn’t care what background you came from; he didn’t care what color you were; he was willing to help you. I don’t care who you were, what you were, how poor you were, your race, or where you were from, it didn’t matter. He loved kids and to get the most out of kids. You could hear it in his voice.”*

Jim Hill was an amazing and caring individual, and one of those volunteers who stood head and shoulders above the rest. Babe Ruth League is extremely fortunate to have had Jim Hill a member of its team. He was a hard-working, tireless volunteer who gave so much back to the Babe Ruth League community. His memory will live on in all of us. Jim Hill was **Babe Ruth Royalty** and is truly a **Legend**.

