

Willie Mays, 1931-2024

by Philip W. Weiss

On June 18, 2024, Major League Baseball announced the passing away of baseball great Willie Mays at age 93.

Willie Mays' accomplishments are a matter of record. His name is synonymous with excellence. He was the penultimate teammate: reliable, consistent, and productive. In a career that spanned twenty-five years, interrupted by two years of military service, Mays had a lifetime batting average of .301 and hit 660 home runs. Willie Mays, who was the centerfielder for the New York Giants, was also part of a triumvirate of three great centerfielders which included Mickey Mantle of the New York Yankees and Duke Snider of the Brooklyn Dodgers, all of whom played at the same time in New York City, a remarkable confluence of baseball talent in one locality unlikely ever to be equaled.

So, please take a moment to remember the life of Willie Mays, baseball player, veteran, and an American icon.