

Historical Overview Committee
National Baseball Hall of Fame
25 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326



Re: **Tommy John**, MLB Pitcher and Hall of Fame Candidate

Dear Members of the Historical Overview Committee, I am writing to you today to **seek your support for the election of Major League Baseball pitcher Tommy John to the National Baseball Hall of Fame** under the rules and election parameters of the Historical Overview Committee and as a Modern Baseball Era Hall of Fame candidate.

On June 12, 1939 then Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis provided the dedicatory address for the National Baseball Museum and the Baseball Hall of Fame. During this dedicatory address Commissioner Landis stated *"I should like to dedicate this museum to all America: to lovers of good sportsmanship, healthy body, team mind. For those are the principles of baseball."*ⁱ I write to you today to firmly state that Tommy John dedicated himself to Baseball and both embodies and personifies the very words of Commissioner Landis. Tommy John lived *"the principles of baseball" **over a 26 year professional baseball career***, always demonstrating good sportsmanship and a team focused mind, ending his illustrious 26-year career which I'll address below, with a "healthy body" by being a pioneer and risktaker as the first recipient of the career saving "Tommy John surgery". **Tommy John IS baseball**, and he will forever be linked to Baseball for his career performance and his pioneer status for a surgery in which *"five hundred or so major leaguers have had since 1974, with virtually all games — more than 85% — now involving at least one pitcher who has had the surgery."*ⁱⁱ

As highlighted above, Tommy John had a highly successful Major League career spanning 26-years, **26 years** (only Nolan Ryan, who is a member of the Hall of Fame, pitched more years than Tommy John), finishing his career at the age of 46 (oldest active MLB player that season) with a 288 win record - **the third-most wins of anyone not in Cooperstown** and as the all-time leader for "no-decisions".

His phenomenal career includes:

- 288 wins, **THE MOST** of any modern player not elected to the Hall of Fame and with 164 of those 288 wins coming after his pioneering "Tommy John Surgery"; for comparison, Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax won a total of 165 games over his entire career
- MLB Record 188 "no decisions" – take 12 of these "no decisions" and add them to his 288 wins and Tommy John is a 300-win Pitcher
- 162 complete games with 91 complete games coming after Tommy John Surgery, and more complete games pitched than 17 current Hall of Fame inducted pitchersⁱⁱⁱ
- Three 20-win seasons, with the last 20-win season coming at the age of 35, **35!**
- Four All-Star nominations, three of which came after surgery – 1978, 1979, 1980
- Career bWAR of 61.6, with a 3.34 ERA over 4,710 innings (**20th-most innings of all time** and right behind Hall of Famer Tom Seaver who had 4783 innings pitched)^{iv}

- Top 10 finish for 12 different seasons for fewest home runs rendered per nine innings with one of the lowest stats in modern baseball of 0.577 home runs per nine innings
- MLB Record since 1925 for forcing ground balls that led to 604 double plays^v
- Ranks 8th all-time in career starts, starting exactly 700 games in his career. Only Hall of Famer pitchers Cy Young, Nolan Ryan, Don Sutton, Greg Maddux, Phil Niekro, and Steve Carlton started more games
- Seventh most victories for a Southpaw pitcher, behind Hall of Famer pitchers Lefty Grove, Randy Johnson and Tom Glavine

With deepest respect for the Historical Overview Committee and each member of the Committee, I say for your consideration, **Tommy John has earned a place in history, he IS a Hall of Fame pitcher, and Tommy John has earned his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.** Please consider his career and what he has done for Major League Baseball and Baseball as a whole. **Please elect Tommy John to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.**

Sincerely,

cc: Craig Muder, Director of Communications, National Baseball Hall of Fame Museum

ⁱ [Kenesaw Mountain Landis - Baseball Hall of Fame Centennial Ceremony Address \(americanrhetoric.com\)](http://americanrhetoric.com)

ⁱⁱ [They dare call it the Hall of Fame \(si.com\)](http://si.com)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Hall of Fame Pitching Register | Baseball-Reference.com \(baseball-reference.com\)](http://baseball-reference.com)

^{iv} [Career Leaders & Records for Innings Pitched | Baseball-Reference.com \(baseball-reference.com\)](http://baseball-reference.com)

^v [Tommy John possibly surgin' in HOF debate \(mlb.com\)](http://mlb.com)

