

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE - 2008

Morrie Silver

Executive

Born July 28, 1909

Died April 26, 1974

NOTES: President, Rochester Red Wings, 1957, 1962-63, 1965
General Manager, Rochester Red Wings, 1966-68
Rochester's park renamed "Silver Stadium" in 1968



Morrie Silver's dedication and devotion to the Rochester Red Wings and the city of Rochester was remarkable during what is now referred to as the "72 Day Miracle". In 1956, the St. Louis Cardinals decided they no longer needed a team in Rochester, and Silver was the leader who stepped up to save baseball for the community. He spearheaded a stock drive in order to keep the team in town, and with the help of 8,221 other shareholders, Rochester Community Baseball was born on February 27, 1957. Morrie and the others officially purchased the team from the Cardinals for \$500,000.

After the team was saved, Silver's work was just beginning as he would go on to a historic career as President and later General Manager of the Red Wings. In 1968 he was paid the ultimate tribute as Red Wng Stadium was renamed "Silver Stadium". A capacity crowd of some of baseball's biggest dignitaries, including the Commissioner of Baseball, was on hand for the event, speaking volumes about how much respect Silver had in the community and the baseball industry.

A plaque was hung in Silver Stadium in 1974 after his passing that reads "His unbounded zeal, his countless hours of dedicated labor and his imaginative leadership coupled with a resolve to save the game for the community he loved prompted Morrie Silver to breathe life into the Red Wings. His dedication to the team was marked by a special benevolence to all people to whom he was devoted with an ardor which blinded him to race, creed, and color. To each went a bit of his generous heart which wore out so tragically soon. His like shall never pass this way again. May Silver Stadium always keep his memory green." This plaque is now proudly displayed at Frontier Field.