

## **GROVER JONES**

Class of 1952

Inducted 2001

Grover "Deacon" Jones, Class of 1952, a major league baseball player, coach and scout for 46 years, is one of the greatest athletes in the history of White Plains and Westchester County.

A three-year starter in football, basketball, and baseball Mr. Jones was named a high school All-American in baseball and football. He was the first recipient of the prestigious Con Edison "Athlete of the Week" Award in September 1951. He was also vice president of the WPHS student government.

While still in high school, Mr. Jones was named the nation's American Legion (under 18) player of the year. He was subsequently placed in the American Legion section of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, the first African-American so honored.

After attending Ithaca College, Mr. Jones was drafted by the Chicago White Sox and won the Hillerich-Bradsby Silver Bat Award, presented to the player with the highest batting average in the minor leagues, when he hit .409 in 1956. He was a first baseman with the White Sox from 1962 to 1964. When a shoulder injury shortened his playing career, he went on to serve as a minor league coach and manager in the White Sox organization.

From 1976 to 1982, Mr. Jones was a major league hitting coach with the Houston Astros. After a one-year stint as a scout for the Yankees, he served five years as hitting coach for the San Diego Padres and participated in the 1984 World Series with the National League Champion Padre team.

For the past 13 years, Mr. Jones has been a roving hitting instructor and advance/special assignment scout for the Baltimore Orioles. He has also played, managed and coached eight winters in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

Mr. Jones is a member of the Ithaca College, Appleton, Wisconsin, and Westchester County Sports Halls of Fame. The town of Greenburgh presented him with a Citizen Award and has named a baseball field in his honor.