



BARACK OBAMA

September 27, 2025

Baseball has produced countless trailblazers whose bravery, dignity, and love for the game left a legacy that continues to push us forward – and few are more memorable than the Say Hey Kid.

Willie Mays wasn't just a singular athlete, blessed with an unmatched combination of grace, skill, and power. He was also a wonderfully warm and generous person – an inspiration to an entire generation. That pioneering spirit is what made him so worthy of the Presidential Medal of Freedom – a testament to his impact both on and off the field.

I'm glad that those entrusted with caring for Willie's legacy are continuing to give back to the causes that mattered most to him in such meaningful ways. It's exactly the kind of thing that Willie spent a lifetime doing, and I'm proud to be a part of it tonight.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a large, stylized "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.