

November 20th, 2012

Dear Hall of Fame,

I would like to tell you a little bit about my next door neighbor, Tony Oliva. I moved into our neighborhood in 1996.

My eldest boy who is a total baseball nut was so excited that we lived next to Tony O! I brought my son, Sean to meet Tony and Sean locked up in front of his hero and couldn't speak. Tony being Tony eventually got him to open up. Sean told Tony that he was at a recent autograph show and was in Tony's line, but that he REALLY wanted was a Paul Molitor autograph, so he went into that line and the show closed before he could get it! I was half mortified! The next day, our doorbell rang and there was Tony Oliva with an autographed Paul Molitor baseball for my son.

Another example of Tony's kindness: One of my wife's friend had terminal cancer and her time was getting closer. One day she was at our house visiting, and mentioned she had always wished that she could meet Tony O. I called over to their house and Tony answered, I asked if he could come over as a favor and I would explain later. A few minutes later, in came Tony. He looked at our friend, realized her health issues, took off his jacket and sat down next to her. He visited and they laughed and Tony had all the time in the world for her. Over an hour later, I walked Tony to the door. As we stepped outside I looked at Tony's house and his driveway and the street was full of cars!!! They were having a BBQ with a ton of guests, and Tony had all the patience in the world for my friend.

You know all of Tony's stats, and his life in baseball. I know about Tony's life after he was done playing. His constant support for all of my charity work, including autographs and photos for all, donating his name to so many charitable efforts, but most importantly his time. Treating EVERY fan as if they were truly special.

I have always told people, that every young baseball player should learn how to deal with fans from Tony Oliva. From start to finish, he is nothing but a class act, a good friend, and one of my heroes.

I ask that you consider sending this worthy former player, and current Ambassador of Baseball to the Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan