

Negro Leagues Ambassador 'Buck' O'Neil Remembered

Baseball legend dead at 94

(AP) -- Friends and strangers alike gathered on Saturday at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo. to mourn the loss and celebrate the life of John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, a dapper, gregarious man who came to embody the story of the Negro Leagues.

O'Neil died on Friday night from complications of congestive heart failure and recently diagnosed bone marrow cancer at Research Medical Center in Kansas City, said Bob Kendrick, marketing director for the museum. He was 94.

Children and adults wandered through the museum, many dressed in the red and white Kansas City Monarchs jerseys and caps that O'Neil made famous. More than usual paused in front of a glass case that held O'Neil's first baseman's glove, a trophy inducting him into the Florida Sports Hall of Fame, and other trinkets.

The White House released a statement from President Bush praising O'Neil as representing "the best of America's national pastime. He devoted his long and full life to baseball, and refused to allow injustice and discrimination to diminish his love of the game and his joyous, generous spirit. Laura and I extend our sympathies to his fam-



Buck O'Neil is pictured in 2005 with a statue of himself at the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

ily and friends, and on behalf of all Americans we give thanks for the life of one of the great ambassadors in baseball history."

O'Neil will lie in state at the museum's Field of Legends gallery, where well-wishers can pay their respects. A private funeral and burial service are scheduled for Saturday and a separate memorial service open to the public will follow.

A celebration of O'Neil's 95th birthday will go on as scheduled Nov. 11 at Kansas City's Starlight Theatre. The guest list of about 750 includes many baseball greats as well as other celebrities and political leaders.

His legacy is virtually unmatched, becoming "an overnight sensation

at 82," as O'Neil liked to say, when Ken Burns featured him in his epic documentary, "Baseball."

Flu Shot Season Arrives

Plenty of flu vaccines are expected this fall and winter, although as much as 50 percent of this year's supply may not arrive in Oregon until November and December, according to public health department officials.

"Supplies are arriving in Oregon daily but we encourage patience and persistence in seeking vaccinations this year," said Lorraine Duncan, immunization manager in the Oregon Department of Human Services Public Health Division.

Duncan said public health officials are encouraging communi-

ties, providers and families to jointly organize vaccination clinics through the holidays. She said it's never too late to get a flu shot during influenza season, which in Oregon typically peaks in February.

Influenza, a contagious virus-caused respiratory illness, annually kills an estimated 36,000 people in the United States.

Flu clinics are posted on the American Lung Association of Oregon Website at lungoregon.org and available by calling SafeNet toll free at 1-800-723-3638. Another resource is getaflushot.com.

Dear Deanna!

I am happily single and really enjoy life. My family and friends keep annoying me and saying I should be in a relationship. I am tired of them blind-siding me with dates, hook-ups and single men. I protect myself when it comes to sex and work hard and make my own money. How do I tell my family thanks, but no thanks? --Single and Loving It; Tampa, Fla.

Dear Single:

If you're happy and having the time of your life then you should tell your family to mind their own business. If you're not displaying the signs of a desperate woman in need of a man, they should back off. You're independent in more ways than one and your family should respect that. Let everyone know that you're happy, not seeking a relationship at this time, but when you do, you'll ask for referrals. Until then, stay safe, make good decisions and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I want to respond to the Wrong Groom in Washington D.C. He was wrong because if he didn't want to marry his girlfriend he should not have offered a proposal. He was even wrong to watch her family spend money when all he had to do was open his mouth and stop everything. She should take him to court and sue him for the money spent as well as pain and suffering. --Stacy; On-Line Reader

Dear Stacy:

You seem to have all the answers and it sounds as if you've been through the ringer a few times with men. Your points are well taken although a bit extreme. Many things in relationships can be handled with simple communication and no need to mess with the law unless there's abuse. His offer to pay the money back doesn't right the wrong. How-

Ask Deanna!



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ever to some, it's not enough and is equivalent to putting a band-aid on a chimney for a roof repair.

Dear Deanna!

My mother-in-law is causing tension in my marriage. She's sexy, youthful and has implants but I'm not attracted to her. I am happy with my wife. My wife has self-esteem issues because of her weight and sees her mom as competition. I often tell her that her mother is fake because of the plastic surgery. Our marriage is suffering because my wife has it in her mind that I want her mother. Is there anything I can do in order to boost her self-esteem? --James; Topeka, Kan

Dear James:

You have no business commenting on your mother-in-law's implants nor calling her sexy. This makes it look as if you've spent time looking at her and sizing her up. You wife has been observing your behavior and actions in the presence of her mother and it has made her insecure. If your wife sees her mom as competition, she needs to lose weight, improve her appearance and work on her own happiness. Your encouragement, coupled with her self-improvement is the solution to bringing the happiness back and saving your marriage.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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