



## **John Donaldson Field and Statue Dedication Date Announced -- Glasgow, MO | July 23, 2020**

(Glasgow) – Glasgow Public School and Glasgow residents are putting the final touches on an event designed to honor the legacy of a Negro League Superstar during Labor Day weekend. On September 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. the John Donaldson Baseball Field and Statue will be formally dedicated.

John Wesley Donaldson was born in Glasgow on February 20, 1891. He attended Evans school, a segregated black school where he led his school team to a number of championships. After attending George R. Smith College in Sedalia for a short time, he began to pursue his baseball career and went on to play for a number of mixed race and all black semi-pro teams, including the renowned Kansas City Monarchs. Donaldson died on April 14, 1970 and was buried in Chicago's historic Burr Oak Cemetery in an 'unmarked grave'. In 2004 a marker was placed at Donaldson's grave with contributions from around the country. On September 4<sup>th</sup> his legacy will be honored with the dedication of a state-of-the-art field bearing his name and a life sized statue completed late last year by renowned sculptor Kwan Wu. The facility will provide a field for community teams, youth sports programs and the Glasgow Public Schools.

In 2017, the grandson of Monnig Industry founder Bob Monnig, Jason Monnig accelerated the dream of honoring Donaldson with a local baseball field. Monnig partnered with multiple business associates and family members, creating an action plan that will culminate with the dedication of the facility in September. Monnig, who has a lifelong passion for baseball, also collaborated with dozens of Glasgow residents on ideas for raising money and designing the John Donaldson Field and Statue.

Monnig says, “The more I learned about John Donaldson, the more determined I became to honor not only an extremely talented athlete, but a man with tremendous integrity and perseverance.” He adds, “Donaldson’s accomplishments against the backdrop of extreme racism is truly an incredible story leaving a legacy that Glasgow citizens can be very proud of.”

Monnig says there are countless individuals and businesses responsible for making the celebration on September 4<sup>th</sup> possible. In addition to three Platinum sponsors, Tom Turner III, the Glasgow Public Schools, and Monnig Industries, dozens of other contributors joined the effort to honor the legacy of John Donaldson.

Monnig went on to say, “We believe there are two great stories here. Obviously, the story of John Donaldson is amazing and there are many resources for learning more about his storied career. The second story is the story of Glasgow and its people.” He added, “We live in a time where our community has many opportunities for division. However, for generations the strength of Glasgow has been our ability to work together on projects which add to the quality of life here. Unveiling the field and statue for our community to enjoy for generations to come will make for a great celebration in Glasgow.”

A complete listing highlighting the many sponsors who made the John Donaldson Field a reality will be recognized in local newspaper ads and on our social media channels. For more information about the John Donaldson Field Dedication ceremony, contact Glasgow School Superintendent Sonya Fuemmeler at 660-338-2812.

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**Bob Monnig founded Monnig Industries in 1960 in Glasgow, Missouri. The company has established a reputation for being the premier hot-dip galvanizer in the Midwest.**