



The greatest thing
in all our lives
is knowing and loving you!

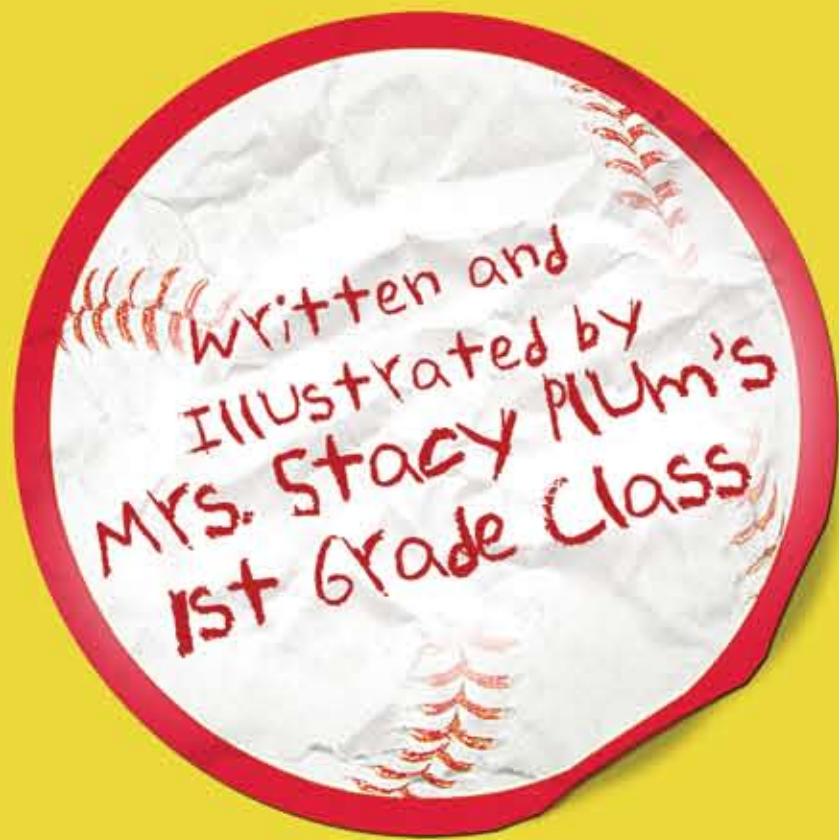
GIVE IT UP!
The story of John "Buck" O'Neil

Give it Up!

The story of John "BUCK" O'Neil



Written and Illustrated by Mrs. Stacy Plum's 1st Grade Class



Written and
Illustrated by
Mrs. Stacy Plum's
1st Grade Class

The Story of



John "Buck" O'Neil

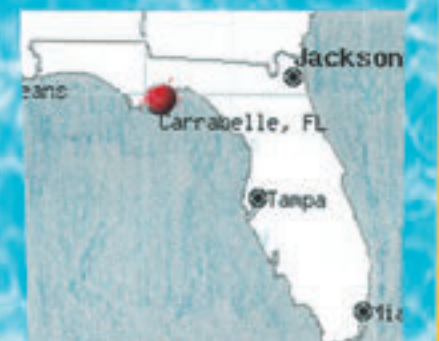
GIVE
IT
UP!

Written and Illustrated by:
Mrs. Stacy Plum's 1st Grade Class

This story begins in Carrabelle, Florida on November 13, 1911. On this day John Jordan O'Neil Jr. was born to two loving parents; Luella and John Jordan O'Neil Sr.



Fact: Carrabelle was a little fishing village on the Florida panhandle.



Fanny



Warren



He had an older sister, named Fanny, and then after John was born a younger brother, Warren came along.

His mother worked as a cook for the Ringlings (of the Ringling Brothers Circus) until his father said that she didn't need to cook for other people anymore. They opened a restaurant called "O'Neil's" and she became the cook there.



John's grandfather, Julius O'Neil was an ex-slave from a plantation in the Carolinas. He was a really good man. He thought that black people could achieve any dream if they worked hard enough for it.

Fact: Julius O'Neil lived to be 98 years old.





His older sister Fanny taught him his ABC's and he taught his younger brother Warren how to play baseball.



When John was little he liked to play baseball. He watched his dad play baseball and played catch with him sometimes.



John liked school, and his school principal Miss Emma Booker. He called her his "guiding light". She wanted the students to dream their dreams and then go out and try to live them.



Fact: There is now a Booker Junior High and Booker High School named after Miss Booker in Sarasota, Florida



He always did his best in school and did his homework every night. His daddy would give him surprises for his good grades.



John worked in the celery fields just outside of town with his dad. One day John stopped working and said, "There has to be something better than this!". His dad heard him and told him, "You're right. There is something better than this. But you can't find it here. You're going to have to go out and get it."



Picking
celery

When John found out he wouldn't be able to go to the brand new high school in Sarasota, Florida he began to cry. His grandma told him not to cry because someday all children would go to that school, not just whites.



Fact: John received his honorary diploma from Sarasota High School when he was 83.

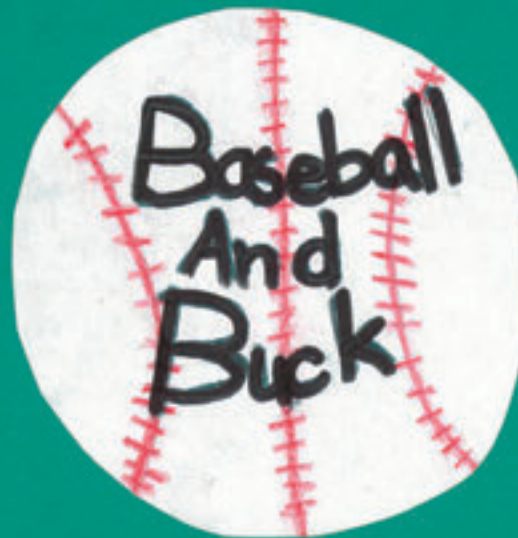
Miss Booker tutored John so that he was able to start college after only two years of high school. He spent four years at Edwards Waters College, two for high school and two for college.





During college he began to play baseball in the summers, and then started playing all year. He never finished college to get his degree, even though his mom really wanted him to.

He played for many baseball teams like the Tampa Black Smokers, the Miami Giants, Shreveport Acme Giants, Memphis Red Sox, Cuban teams in the summer, and the Zulu Cannibal Giants for a little while, before playing for the Monarchs.



Fact: The Zulu Cannibal Giants played baseball in grass skirts, painted their faces and put rings in their noses.

Fact: John O'Neil got the nickname "Buck" O'Neil because of a name mix-up when he played with the Zulus. From then on he was known as "Buck" O'Neil. He is now known by most people as "Buck" O'Neil instead of John O'Neil.



In 1938 "Buck" O'Neil started playing baseball for the Kansas City Monarchs. He scouted and managed for the Monarchs too! He was with the Monarchs from 1938-1955.



Satchel Paige



Josh Gibson



"Buck" became friends with a lot of really good Negro League baseball players like; Cool Papa Bell, Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, Hilton Smith, and Buck Leonard.



NEGRO LEAGUES

He had to leave the Monarchs to go to WWII as a member of the United States Navy. While "Buck" was at war Jackie Robinson began playing for the Monarchs.

NAVY



Jackie Robinson →





Buck became a scout for the Chicago Cubs. He then became the first African American coach in the Major Leagues by coaching the Chicago Cubs.





In 1943 "Buck" had his best day ever in baseball! He got a single, a double, a triple, and a homerun all in the same game. That night at the hotel where he was staying he met Ora Lee, the woman he would marry. They were married for 51 years! What a day!



Fact: Getting a single, double, a triple, and a homerun all in the same game is called hitting the cycle.

"Buck" really enjoyed Kansas City and was happy when he was offered a job scouting for the Kansas City Royals.



Fact: When "Buck" got out of the Navy in 1946 he married Ora and moved to Kansas City full time.



His love for Negro League Baseball made him help start the Negro League Baseball Museum. It started in a little office across the street from where it is today on 18th and Vine in Kansas City, Missouri.



Fact: "Buck" says, "Baseball and jazz, two of the best inventions known to man, walked hand in hand down on Vine."



Today at the age of 93, Buck is still very active. He travels around giving speeches, plays golf, goes to church every week, and works at the Negro League Baseball Museum.



Fact: "Buck" says, "It is wonderful that folks are remembering the people who built the bridge across the chasm of prejudice, not just the men who later crossed it."



If you ever get a chance to meet Mr. O'Neil he will bring a smile to your face and put love in your heart, like he did for us.

Remember to do as "Buck" does, give out love and hugs, not hate.
"Just GIVE IT UP, and don't hold back!"



Fact: "Buck" says, "I hate hatred - men remain in ignorance as long as they hate."



What is Buck O'Neil's favorite color?

A



B



C



But all colors really!

What is his best friend's name from baseball?

A



Jackie Robinson

B



Satchel Paige

C



Hilton Smith

D



Rube Foster

What nickname did Buck O'Neil get from Satchel Paige?

A

Buck

B

Jr.

C

Nancy

D

J.J.

What is Buck O'Neil's favorite food?

a



Pizza
Supreme

b



Chocolate
chip
cookies

c



Catfish



all of
the
above

What was Buck's favorite city to travel to during his baseball career? (Hint: He liked this city because it was so diverse, people of all colors could be seen there!)

a

New York
City

B

Los Angeles



Chicago

D

Las Vegas

Why does Buck O'Neil like baseball?

A He is good at it.

B The people are different colors.

C He got paid lots of money.

d Baseball has exact rules that every body has to follow.

What was Ora's job when Buck met her?

A Teacher



B Nurse



C Chef



d secretary




What is Buck O'Neil's favorite book?

A



B



C



d



What position did Buck O'Neil play?

A Shortstop

shortstop n. Baseball the infielder stationed between second and third base.

b CATCHER

C First base

D OUTFIELDER

outfielder (-er) a player whose position is in the outfield or beyond the

What is Buck O'Neil's favorite song?

a "The Greatest Thing in all my life is loving you."

b "I Love You, You Love Me"

c "Lean On Me"

d "Let it shine"

ANSWERS

1. d 2. c 3. c 4. d 5. a

6. d 7. a 8. b 9. c 10. a

The Class of 2004 - 2005 "Gives It Up" With Love
To Their HERO, Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil:

Anthony Alvarez	Courtney Johnney
Antonio Brown	Christopher Liera
Alijandra Cervantes	Marcus McCoy
Christain Cisneros	Elizabeth Olivares
Robert Davis	Adrian Orozco
Nina Flores	Gabriel Pacheco
Matthew Garcia	Angelica Puentes
Gustavo Gutierrez-Robledo	Arturo Sanchez
Wasiba Hamad	Maria Torres-Martinez
Daniel Hernandez	Alyssa Vergara
Nadia Jimenez-Jackson	Israel Villalobos

This book is dedicated to Ms. Evelyn J. Belser who was instrumental in providing the students of Primitivo Garcia an opportunity to meet their hero, Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil.

Ms. Belser's passion and commitment to education and children resonates deeply in the many lives she has touched throughout her years as an educator.

We are eternally grateful to Ms. Belser for her kindness. She will always hold a special place in our hearts.



The authors and illustrators of *Give It Up* attend Primitivo Garcia Elementary School in the Kansas City Missouri School District. They are in Mrs. Stacy Plum's first grade class. This project required a great deal of hard work and dedication but they were up to the challenge. Researching and learning about Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil was engaging and exciting for them. They will always treasure the memories of their moments with Buck and be forever thankful that they were chosen to complete such an awesome task.



Dedication

This book is dedicated to Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil. Our class got to meet him and we discovered that he is even nicer and more wonderful than we could ever have imagined. Thank you Mr. O'Neil for spending a little part of your precious time with us, allowing us to become your friends, and join you in giving it up. You are a special man that deserves to be recognized!

Special Thanks

Thank you to Ms. Tearo Condit for believing in us and giving us a chance to learn about Mr. O'Neil while taking part in a marvelous project.



Thank you also to Mr. Bob Walkenhorst for making our project even more special. Writing a song and making a video was exciting and wouldn't have happened without you!

1911-2006



Buck and Ora



Giving it up!



Rap a Tap Tap...



Running the bases!



Enjoying a hug!



Playing with the KC T-Bones



Cubs Coach

We will always have the memories!

THE PROCESS

Written by: Mrs. Stacy Plum



After researching Mr. O'Neil on my own I presented the facts and information to my students in the form of stories. Each day their learning took place during a thirty minute time block known as "Buck Time". The students soaked up the information and developed an emotional tie to the project and to "Buck" as a man. My class began to live their lives by asking themselves, "What would Buck do?", and even made bracelets to wear with the initials W.W.B.D. Classroom management was simple because the students bonded together and hate and ill will was no longer an issue for them. The students internalized the "give it up" way of life and will be able to live by this principle for the rest of their lives. They spent countless hours researching different types of literature and taking part in author studies in order to be able to decide what they wanted their book to look like and what they felt it should contain. As you read Give It Up!, you will see their embellishments in the

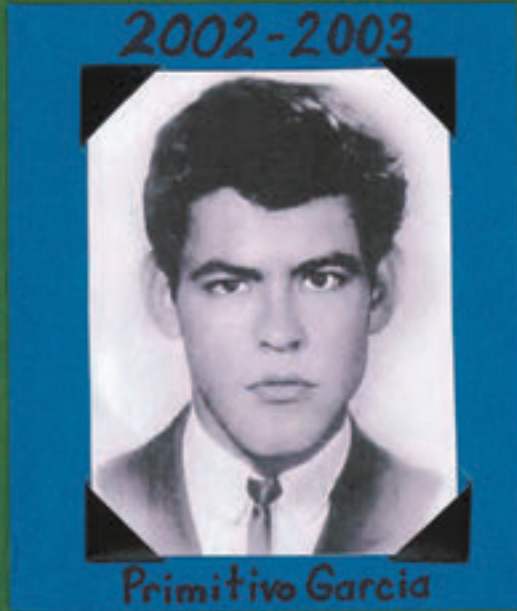
form of facts, trivia, student art, photographs, and scrapbooking techniques. I let my students brainstorm ideas on how to honor Mr. O'Neil, and then did my best to help them turn their ideas into reality. My class and I not only wrote and illustrated this book, we also created a one of a kind quilt. The inspiration for the quilt was the love Mr. O'Neil has for others. When he came to visit our class we asked to trace his hands, and then we each cut out our own unique fabric heart. We placed his hands beneath a big heart with "Give it Up" embroidered on it and surrounded it with all of their little hearts signifying that we were all giving it up now that he has shown us the way. With the help of Opus Communications and the brilliant Mr. Bob Walkenhorst they created a song entitled "Give It Up" and created a music video DVD for which they created all of their own choreography. My first year of teaching with the Kansas City Missouri School District will be a hard one to ever surpass due to the dedication and love my students and I had for our project and our hero Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil.

HONORABLE
PATIENT

HEROES

CHARMING
A ROCK

Each year at Primitivo Garcia a class is chosen by the Vice Principal, Ms. Tearo L. Condit to participate in the school hero program. This program is part of an effort to build strong community ties. Each year an individual is selected that embodies some of the same characteristics as our school's name sake; Primitivo Garcia. Previous school heroes have been; Primitivo Garcia, Cesar Chavez, and Irene H. Ruiz. During the 2004-2005 school year Stacy Plum, as a first year teacher, was chosen to lead her first graders in honoring the legendary Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil is known as Mr. Kansas City because he is an ambassador for our city, baseball, and the Negro Leagues. What better man to select than one who has lived his life giving out love and hugs, and who doesn't feel any hate or prejudice to any man, woman, color, or creed!



I would like to say thank you to my family who supported me throughout this project. I spent countless hours after work typing and editing my students' work and then making their layouts final. Many who read this book may not know that my class and I made an original book which we presented to Mr. O'Neil, and then we made a second original so that we would have one to keep. That means that everything we did, we did twice. All of the original projects; the research, the learning, the book, the quilt, the song, and the music DVD were completed during a five month time period. My sister and my mom donated scrapbook supplies to my class in order for us to create our book. My family also stepped up and watched my daughter during my late nights. I probably wasn't the easiest person to deal with throughout the project since I was also tackling my first year of teaching, but they all stood by me and I appreciate it beyond words. Thank you also to Ms. Condit who believed in me and chose my class to embark on such an awesome experience. I love you all! - Stacy Plum



Kansas City, Missouri
SCHOOL DISTRICT
At the heart of success.

This project was made possible by the students from Primitivo Garcia Elementary School in the Kansas City Missouri School District. Students in Mrs. Stacy Plum's class studied the life of Buck O'Neil and then used what they learned to create a book, giving homage to the legendary baseball player. Students also created a quilt, composed a song and recorded a video in honor of the great Buck O'Neil. - KCMSD Communications Department

Special Thanks

We would like to give special thanks to LINC and to everyone who made the official publishing of Give It Up possible. While immersing ourselves in the researching and writing of the book we discovered that the only literature on Mr. John "Buck" O'Neil was written for adult audiences. Having our book published will allow children everywhere to learn about the extraordinary man we have come to know and love, Buck O'Neil.

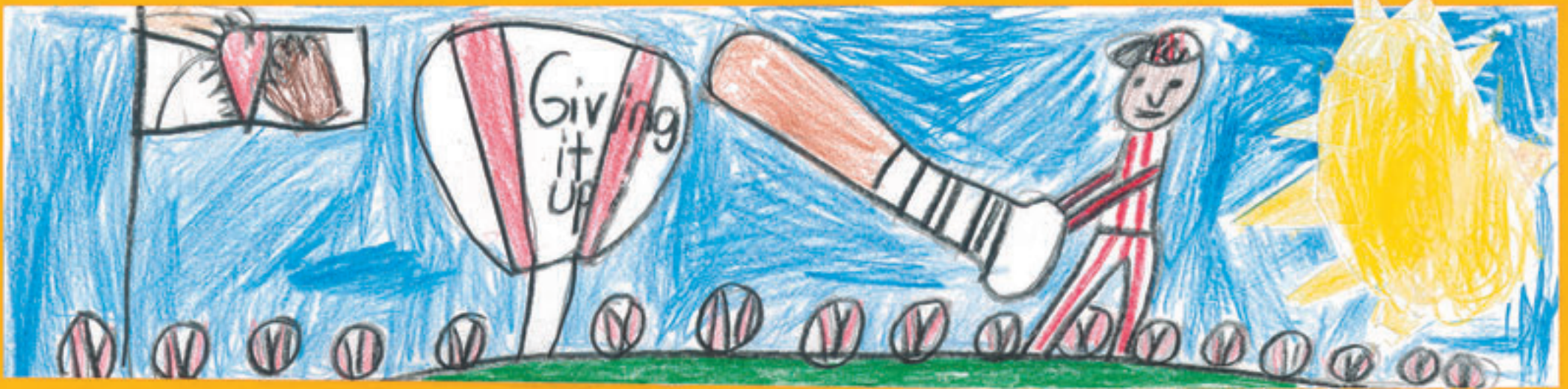
Caring Communities



Caring Communities



We would also like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Evelyn J. Belser. As a dear friend of Mr. O'Neil's she was an invaluable resource for information and support. We appreciate her intervention to arrange our time with Buck and allowing us to meet the man behind the legend. She is a truly wonderful lady with an extremely kind heart.



"If you ever get to meet him
Love is what you'll feel
So give it up, give it up
For Buck O'Neil!"

*Chorus line from "Give it Up", The "Buck" O'Neil Song
Written by: Mrs. Stacy Plum's 1st Grade class and Mr. Bob Walkenhorst*



