



ClearBuck.com

March 23, 2015

Robert D. Manfred Jr.
Commissioner
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, New York 10167

RE: Reinstatement Request for George “Buck” Weaver 1890-1956

Dear Commissioner Manfred:

Congratulations on becoming the 10th Commissioner in MLB history!

I know you have a lot of pressing issues as you begin your term of office but I represent the family of George “Buck” Weaver, who played flawless baseball during the 1919 World Series. He batted .324 and committed no errors on the field.

As the representative for the Weaver family, we are formally applying for Buck’s reinstatement into Baseball.

The Weaver family has been patiently waiting for more than ninety years for Major League Baseball to reinstate Buck Weaver in good standing, especially after the first MLB historian Jerome Holtzman completed his investigation into the 1919 World Series scandal at the request of your predecessor and recommended the posthumous reinstatement of Buck Weaver more than a decade ago.

The Chicago Baseball Museum, which I founded in 2005, acquired Jerome Holtzman’s personal papers and library in November 2007. I also spent a lot of time with Jerome before his death in July 2008. Holtzman called Weaver “an innocent bystander” in the 1919 World Series scandal, where it is universally accepted that Weaver never accepted any money to throw a game, unlike the seven other White Sox players, who were permanently banned by Commissioner Landis in 1921.

Until he died in 1956, Buck Weaver petitioned every Commissioner (Landis, Chandler, Frick) to be reinstated. His hand-written heart-wrenching plea to

Commissioner Frick in 1953 has been prominently displayed at Cooperstown.

After he died in 1956, the Weaver family took up his cause including his nieces Bette Scanlon and Patricia (Scanlon) Anderson, who Buck and his wife Helen took into their home when their father died in 1931. While trying to earn a living in Chicago after being banished from Baseball, Buck raised the two nieces for 16 years as his own daughters. Another niece Marge Follett helped the Scanlon sisters lobby on behalf of Buck every subsequent Commissioner until your appointment in January 2015.

In 2003, I created the "ClearBuck.com" campaign to help the family get Weaver reinstated. We staged a rally at the 2003 All-Star game in Chicago that got thousands of fans to sign a petition urging Weaver's reinstatement. I brought both Patricia (Scanlon) Anderson, 76, and Marge Follett, 89, to the All-Star game with the hopes that Commissioner Selig would meet with them.

Their hopes were buoyed when Commissioner Selig met with Pete Rose in 2002 to discuss Rose's possible reinstatement around the time Bette Scanlon died.

But even though both ladies were seated very close to Commissioner Selig at the game at US Cellular Field he did not meet with them. However, after the game he did field questions from the media about Weaver and went on record (ABC-TV news story) saying he would look into the matter.

After spending more than 45 years battling for her Uncle Buck, Marge Follett died in October 2003, leaving only Patricia Anderson, as the only direct family member still alive to fight for Buck Weaver.

In 2005, President Obama—then still a Senator from Illinois--- requested a probe of the Weaver suspension by Commissioner Selig. Commissioner Selig wrote the future President back stating that he asked MLB's first official historian Jerome Holtzman to investigate and advise him on the matter. (I have enclosed President Obama's November 23rd 2005 letter and Commissioner Selig's December 6th 2005 response).

In 2013, Patricia Anderson along with her daughter Sandy and her granddaughter Kristi traveled to the Society for American Baseball Research's (SABR) 2013 national convention in Philadelphia, as part of the ClearBuck.com campaign. Pat was a featured speaker for a packed symposium on the 50th anniversary of the seminal book **Eight Men Out**.

The family and I made one final attempt in late December 2014 to get Commissioner Selig before his term expired to pardon Buck Weaver. I reminded him that nearly ten years ago President Obama, then a newly minted Senator from Illinois, urged Commissioner Selig to pardon Weaver.

For more than twelve years, the “ClearBuck” campaign was unsuccessful in securing a meeting with your predecessor to talk to Weaver’s surrogate daughter Patricia about her uncle Buck.

Eighty-seven year-old Patricia Anderson is the last living link to Commissioner Landis and knows better than anyone the pain Buck suffered for being banished from Baseball and spending the rest of his life trying to clear his name.

For years, she has asked to meet with Commissioner Selig to plead Buck’s case and his love for baseball. She is now in very poor health but for her entire life she has wanted to help the man who took her into his home at age 4 when her father died in 1931. We urge you to meet with Patricia and allow her to speak on behalf of her Uncle Buck before it is too late.

If "justice delayed is justice denied," then certainly Buck Weaver has been denied justice for far too long. Those who cherish the integrity the game of Baseball as well as its true fans call upon you Commissioner Manfred to reinstate Buck Weaver to the game he loved. Not because he has Hall of Fame credentials, or because he has the Major League Players Association advocating on his behalf, but because it's the right thing to do, and the right thing can't wait. It's the only way to heal one of baseball's biggest black eyes because Buck Weaver never got due process from Major League Baseball.

Buck Weaver was wrongly banned from baseball and deserves to have his reputation and honor to his family name restored.

Nearly a century after he last played for the White Sox, Weaver continues to enjoy strong support in the ongoing effort to clear his name. Back in 1920, *The Sporting News* reported on Weaver's faithful supporters with the headline “Chicago Fans Grieve Most for Weaver and Still Hope for Him.” In some quarters, that sentiment remains strong almost 100 years later.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures: 2005 correspondence exchange between President Obama and Commissioner Selig



(Left to Right). Ziff Sistrunk, Mayor Daley, Dr. David Fletcher, Amber Buchanan.



Supporters at the "Clear Buck" Rally



Buck Weaver in 1917, a championship season; Buck Weaver on the field.



The wedding of Marge Follett, Buck Weaver's niece.