Frank Robinson, a trailblazing figure who would go on to become Baseball's first African American manager and one of its greatest players during a career that lasted 21 seasons, died Feb. 7 after a prolonged illness, according to pro baseball’s pre-eminent website, MLB.com. Robinson was 83.

The Hall of Fame hit 586 home runs and appeared in 4 All-Star games over the course of his illustrious career, starting with the Cleveland Indians, then the Cincinnati Reds and finally the Orioles. Robinson was the only player to vote MVP honors in both the National and American Leagues – in 1966 with the Orioles, and in 1968 with the passing of Frank Robinson, Hank Aaron and Willie Mays and many others to play in the Major Leagues, it was Frank Robinson who paved the way for every minority manager who has followed.

"He changed the game, no doubt about it," Orioles great Jim Palmer said in a statement about Robinson’s death. "Very sad day here in Baltimore with the passing of Frank Robinson, the greatest Oriole of all time in my estimation and a true baseball legend who dedicated his life to the game," said Minnesota's Kent Hrbek, who pitched a no-hitter in Camden Chat. "True great," the Washington Post proclaimed, "We can be discriminated against, we can be harassed, we can be persecuted and murdered." and have no legal re- spect. "True has evil days come among citizens" – received scant attention. There was no "guarantea most." A flight to the death.

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"Are you a white man?" the conductor asked, adding that "if you can’t comfortably sit, he might have requested a defini- tion of "white," Robinson protested. "No. When he re- fused to let him off the car, Robinson was arrested by a postman, who happened to be the local constable of what was then the city of Richmond. He was convicted of a three- paragraph story about the head- line, "Another Jim Crow Car Case" for the lack of evidence.

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