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A Tribute to Babe Ruth

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A TRIBUTE TO
BABE RUTH

RUTH, "BABE," GEORGE HERMAN (1895-1948), won fame as the greatest slugger in baseball history. He set many records, including his 714 regular-season home runs. Ruth had a personality that caught the imagination of fans and helped popularize baseball.

Left to right in the photo are Ken Mulder, President of the Italian American Golf Association, Inc., and Tom McMullen, Chairman Tampa Historical Society, Sam Ferlita and Roger Raines, members of the Board of Directors of the Tampa Historical Society "Babe Ruth Marker" Commission.

Ruth was born in Baltimore, Md., on Feb. 6, 1895. He was raised at St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore. One of Ruth’s teachers recognized his skill at baseball and helped him start his career in 1914. Later that year, Ruth joined the Boston Red Sox and became a successful pitcher. But when the Red Sox sold him to the New York Yankees in 1920, he gave up pitching to play in the outfield and concentrate on hitting. In 1927, Ruth set a record of 60 home runs during a single season. His slugging power made him baseball’s biggest attraction, and when the
Yankees built a huge new stadium, it was nicknamed "The House That Ruth Built." The Yankees released him at the end of the 1934 season, and he finished his career with the Boston Braves in 1935. Ruth died of cancer. Ed Fitzgerald.

The Italian American Golf Association, Inc. is the financial sponsor of the long awaited Historical Marker commemorating "Babe Ruth’s Longest Hit Homerun" that occurred in Tampa, Florida, on April 4, 1919, on a beautiful spring day. This historical event took place at Plant Field.

The Marker was unveiled at the Banquet on March 21, 1981 at the Dinner-Dance at Egypt Temple Shrine.

Participating in the ceremony were Tom McMullen, Chairman of the Tampa Historical Society "Babe Ruth Marker" Commission; along with Baseball’s all time Greats, Roger Maris, Mickey Mantel and Whitey Ford, pulling the cord that unveiled and dedicated this Historical Marker, which joins other markers that dot out city’s landscape calling attention to Tampa’s rich heritage of historical events.

The Italian American Golf Association, Inc. in sponsoring the plaque at a cost of $625 have another first as they have supported financially many other worthwhile endeavors.