

Red Sox Hall of Fame inducts Sullivan

Longtime Kaua'i resident was starting pitcher

By **Jon Letman**
Kaua'i People

It's an experience no one else on Kaua'i has had.

Last February Frank Sullivan was standing barefoot in his kitchen when his phone rang and a voice on the other end asked him to come to Boston.

"You" the voice said, "are being inducted into the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame."

That voice belonged to Red Sox Vice President of Publications and Archives Dick Bresciani and when he broke the news Sullivan was shocked.

In the 44 years he has lived on Kaua'i, Sullivan never once considered he might someday be recognized as one of only 49 players in the Red Sox's 107-year history to be selected for

the hall of fame.

Visibly elated, Sullivan savors the moment: "I was a Red Sox again."

Sullivan, 78, a starting pitcher who played for the team from 1953 to 1960 later wrote, "I was struck dumb with the thought that my mug would be there (on the Hall of Fame wall) with the likes of Babe Ruth and Ted Williams."

In November the Red Sox flew Sullivan and his wife Mari-

"It wasn't until I got to Kaua'i that I started learning what life was all about."

—Frank Sullivan

lyn to Boston for four days of events and the induction ceremony, a \$350-a-plate charity dinner gala that honored six players for 2008.

"Frank was elected to the Red Sox Hall of Fame for his solid

pitching that, over his 8-year stay in Boston, ranked him among the best in the American League," Bresciani wrote in an email. He added, "Frank was a strong candidate all along and we are thrilled he was inducted last month."

"The new Red Sox ownership has been marvelous," Sullivan says, noting that his biggest thrill was having two dozen friends and family including his wife, son and grandchildren in Boston for the induction ceremony.

Today, this 6-foot-7-inch California native and self-proclaimed "jock" still closely follows not only baseball, but all sports, with unabated enthusiasm. In Sullivan's words, "If it ain't sports, I don't watch it."

Born in Hollywood and raised in Los Angeles at a time when there was no smog and ice was something you put in your drink, as a boy Sullivan enjoyed diving, fishing, basketball and any other game he could play.

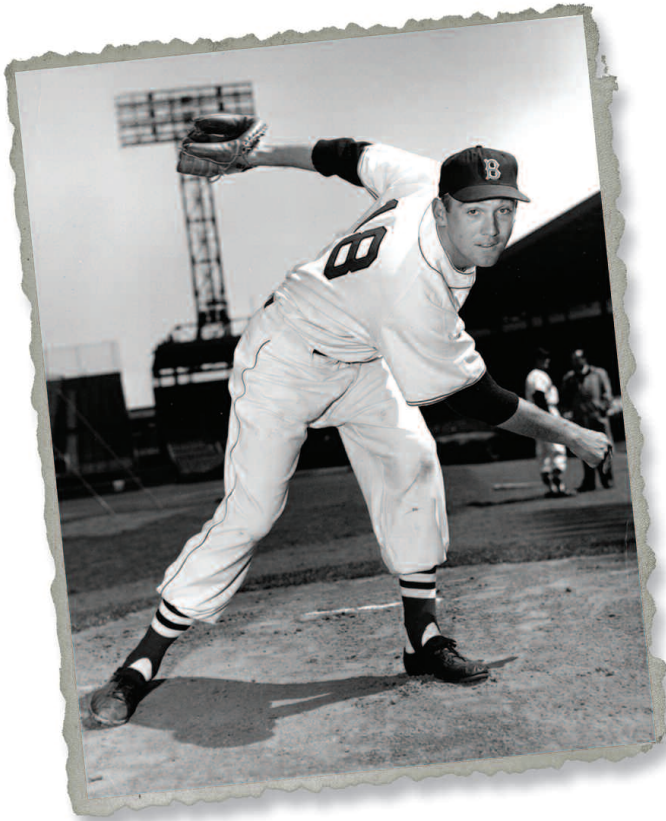
In the late 1940s and early 50s, Sullivan played five years in the minor leagues with teams from San Jose and Oroville to Scranton and Birmingham. He also played Mexican league baseball and, during a stint in the Army in the Korean War, played baseball recreationally while stationed in Japan.

It was while Sullivan was playing for the Albany Senators that he was selected to start

with the Red Sox. Over the next eight years Sullivan was a leading pitcher and in 1955 and 1956 was chosen to play on All-Star teams. In 1960 he was traded and played a year each, first with the Phillies and then the Twins.

But in 1963 when Sullivan retired from baseball, suddenly, at the age of 33, he

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Frank Sullivan, retired pitcher for the Boston Red Sox and a 44-year Kaua'i resident, was recently inducted into the Red Sox Hall of Fame and has published a book titled "Life is More Than 9 Innings."

photo by **JON LETMAN**

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