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Merchants Bank Brattleboro Hosts Impossible Dream Team 1967 Cy Young Winner, Jim Lonborg from the Boston Red Sox

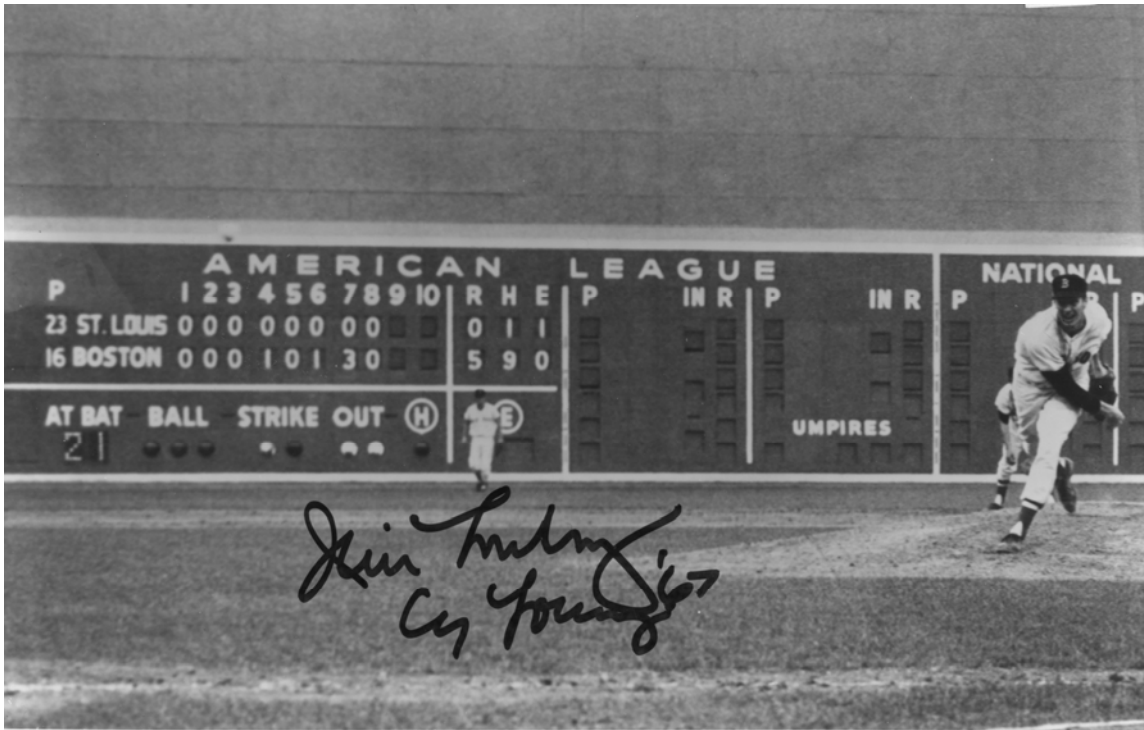
SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT— Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President of Merchants Bank announced that on Friday, September 28, from 11am to 2pm, the Brattleboro branch will host a free, public signing with former member of the Boston Red Sox's Impossible Dream Team and 1967 Cy Young winner, Jim Lonborg. Branch President Pam Matweecha, along with staff Helen Courtemanche, Michelle White, Phyllis Ormond, Corporate Banking Officer Ed Kunttu and Corporate Banking Administrator Lisa Ryan, will be on hand to greet visitors. Merchants Bank will supply the first 100 visitors to the branch with a free Lonborg photo for the signing; visitors should come prepared with another item for signing, in the case that the first 100 photos have been distributed. In true ballgame style, popcorn and peanuts will be served to visitors.

Impossible Dream Team

According to Major League Baseball (MLB) accounts, Boston baseball historians refer to the 1967 Red Sox season as the re-invention of Boston Red Sox baseball. Red Sox television broadcaster, Jerry Remy has declared, "The 1967 team created the Red Sox craze and Red Sox Nation we have today. They re-invented baseball in New England."

MLB records show the Red Sox entering the 1967 season of the American League with low expectations and attendance to begin the season, little known talent, and in the middle of an eight-year losing streak. However, when the White Sox later lost their grasp on first-place, the Red Sox sat atop the American League. Boston defeated Minnesota to tie with the Twins at the top of the American League standings; Detroit was close in ratings. Boston and Minnesota were programmed to conclude their series and Detroit had a double header against the California Angels. **Boston defeated Minnesota on the arm of their Cy Young Award candidate, Jim Lonborg.** The Boston Red Sox finished the season as the 1967 American League Champions. Although the Red Sox lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1967 World Series, the overachieving club is considered among the greatest Red Sox teams in club history. Red Sox players dominated the American League overall with left-fielder Carl Yastrzemski, playing one of the best single-season offensive battles; **pitcher Jim Lonborg winning the Cy Young Award;** and, legendary outfielders and sluggers, Tony Conigliaro and Rico Petrocelli (short-stop), setting records. The four Red Sox heroes were named to the American League All-Star team, going down in Red Sox and baseball history.

"Merchants Bank is proud to host baseball celebrity Jim Lonborg. We are excited to welcome him to Brattleboro and have the community enjoy the opportunity to meet a Red Sox legend," commented Leavitt.



The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a state-wide community bank that blends a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. It fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 36 community bank offices and 44 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service, and streamlined products: FreedomLYNX[®] Banking, which consists of Free Checking for Life[®], a low cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card and Free Automated Phone Banking; TimeLYNX[®] Flexible Certificates of Deposit; AutoLYNXSM Vehicle Loans; HomeLYNX[®] Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit; RealLYNX[®] Residential Mortgages; CommerceLYNX[®] Business Banking; and Q-LYNX Quick Decision Business Loans. For more information about Merchants Bank, **visit mbvt.com**. Merchants' stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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