

Jacobie O'Neal and Tyler Eddy Field Dedication
April 12, 2008 – D.W. Wilson Sports Complex
Van W. Johnson, Sr., Director Parks & Recreation Department
Welcome Speech

Good morning and welcome to the D.W. Wilson Sports Complex. Thank you for joining the families of Jacobie O'Neal and Tyler Eddy as we pay them homage by dedicating two baseball fields in their memories.

The news of Jacobie' passing on September 2, 2006 and Tyler on July 8, 2007, caused a profound sadness to ripple through the community like a rock falling into a still lake.

Those nearest the point of impact (their families and friends) felt the effects the most, but the sadness continued touching people throughout the community and far beyond the borders of Franklin County.

Because of this, we as a community are here today to symbolize the love we have and will always have for these two young All-Stars.

Jacobie and Tyler had several things in common, to name a few. First, they were both taken away from their families too soon. They both shared a great love for the sport of baseball and their passing has left a void in the lives of their friends, teammates, and community.

Although neither will again grace this complex with their physical presence, they will always be here in our hearts and in our memories, because of what we do here today.

Now they are doing what they both loved best, playing baseball on a Field of Dreams with the Heavenly All-Stars.

Welcome and thank you for coming out!