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STATE OF MICHIGAN
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Ernie Harwell and Alan Trammell Pitch Support for Michigan's Public Libraries

Hoping to write a positive new chapter in the story of Michigan library funding, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the Library of Michigan today announced that Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell and Detroit Tigers Manager Alan Trammell have offered to champion for state libraries in a new campaign called "**Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries.**"

One of the very first fund-raising events takes place at Comerica Park on Sunday, May 15, 2005, when \$10 of every ticket purchased for an upper-deck box seat will be donated to a special library endowment fund. That day the Detroit Tigers host the Anaheim Angels for an afternoon game.

Harwell and Trammell are well aware that libraries have, for a number of years, faced critical funding shortages and have stated they want to do what they can to help create endowments and expand existing endowments for Michigan's 384 public libraries.

"I have always had a strong interest in books and libraries and want to help support our state's libraries any way I can," said Harwell. "My brother, Richard, who spent a long career serving as a college and university librarian, had a strong influence on my love of books and libraries."

Said Trammell, "As a father of three children with two now in college, I am well aware of the critical importance of libraries in the learning development of children and young adults."

(more)

Ernie Harwell, Alan Trammell Team Up for Libraries – Page 2

Department of History, Arts and Libraries Director Dr. William Anderson said this partnership is an excellent opportunity to draw attention not only to the uncertain financial state of Michigan's libraries, but also to the incredible good they bring to their communities every day.

"With such well-known and well-loved hometown heroes like Ernie and Tram taking a public stance on the value and enduring importance of libraries, the message will get stronger and stronger," said Dr. Anderson. "We cannot thank Ernie, Tram and the Detroit Tigers enough for their generosity in making May 15 a special day for Michigan libraries."

Acting State Librarian Nancy Robertson said that libraries would certainly do their part to help promote the game. "There isn't a stronger advocacy group than the library community anywhere in Michigan," she said. "With the help of our cooperatives, we will do everything we can to get the word out to friends, family and library fans everywhere about this exciting day at the ballpark."

The Library of Michigan is part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). Dedicated to enriching the quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage and fostering cultural creativity, the department also includes the Michigan Historical Center, the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Film Office. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/hal.

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