



Thomas continued to pile up the numbers in the 1990s, winning The John A. "Bud" Hillerich Silver Bat Award as the batting champ in 1997 with a .347 average. His streak of seven-straight 100 RBI, 100 walk, 20 homer and .300 average seasons ended the next year, but Thomas posted another one of those seasons in 2000 – leaving him with eight for his career

After being a part of the 2005 White Sox team that won the World Series, Thomas left Chicago as the franchise's all-time leader in runs, doubles, home runs, total bases and walks. He later played stints with the Oakland Athletics and then the Toronto Blue Jays, before signing a one-day contract in 2010 to officially retire with the White Sox.

His final numbers place him among the greatest to play the game: 521 home runs, with five seasons with at least 40 home runs; 1,704 RBI, a .301 career batting average with a .419 on-base percentage, including four seasons where he led the league in OBP; 1,667 walks (10th all-time) with four league-leading seasons in bases on balls; five All-Star Game selections; four Silver Slugger Awards; and nine Top 10 finishes in the AL MVP voting, including his back-to-back wins in 1993 and 1994.

He was honored by the White Sox in 2011 when the franchise unveiled a life-sized bronze statue immortalizing his famous one-step swing. Thomas received the ultimate recognition in 2014 when he was welcomed to Cooperstown and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. A first-ballot inductee, Thomas received an astounding 83.7% of the votes.

Outside of baseball, his professional success has been matched only by personal generosity. He plays an active role in leading his charitable endeavor, the Frank Thomas Charitable Foundation, which coordinates fundraising efforts with various non-profit organizations like the Leukemia Society of America, the Boys and Girls Clubs, and needs-based college scholarships.

"Frank Thomas is a living legend both on and off the field," said Anne Jewell, Vice President and Executive Director of Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory. "On the diamond and in the community, his larger-than-life persona and towering home runs made him a fan favorite for all of baseball. We are proud to have him as a part of the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory family and excited to honor him with this award."

### **Limited Edition Louisville Slugger Bat**

To honor the Living Legend, Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory has produced a limited edition C243 model collector bat for this special occasion, the same model Thomas used during his back-to-back MVP seasons. In addition to The Big Hurt's signature, the commemorative bat features career facts on the back barrel. Only 50 signed bats are available. The cost is \$250 per bat and includes two tickets to the invitation-only Living Legend celebration. For more information or to purchase a bat, please call 502-588-7286 or email [museumstore@sluggermuseum.com](mailto:museumstore@sluggermuseum.com).

### **Living Legend Past Recipients**

With the Living Legend recognition, Thomas joins a prestigious group of baseball Hall of Famers to receive the award. Past recipients of Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory's Living Legend Award include: Dave Winfield (2016), Andre Dawson (2015), Ozzie Smith (2014), Cal Ripken, Jr. (2013), Tony Gwynn (2012), Johnny Bench (2011), Ernie Banks (2010), Hank Aaron (2009), Frank Robinson (2008) and Ken Griffey, Jr. (2007).

### **About Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory:**

*Experience history-in-the-making as you stroll through the factory where world-famous Louisville Slugger bats are created. Award-winning factory tour, newly renovated galleries with interactive exhibits, historic memorabilia, and more. Create a Louisville Slugger bat with your very own name on it, just like the pros. Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, 800 West Main Street, is open Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended summer hours. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$13 for seniors (60+), \$8 children (6-12), and free for children 5 and under. For more information, including holiday hours and extended summer hours, visit [sluggermuseum.com](http://sluggermuseum.com) or call 502-588-7228.*

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