



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tony Kemp Named Oakland A's Nominee for the 2020 Roberto Clemente Award

OAKLAND, Calif. – Oakland A's infielder Tony Kemp has been named the Club's 2020 nominee for the Roberto Clemente Award, which recognizes a Major League player who best represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy, and positive contributions both on the field and in the community. The Roberto Clemente Award is the most prestigious individual award for Major Leaguers.

Wednesday, Sept. 9 marks the 19th annual Roberto Clemente Day, which was established by Major League Baseball to honor Clemente's legacy as a humanitarian and to officially acknowledge the 30 Club-nominated award nominees. As part of the league-wide celebration, the Roberto Clemente Day logo will appear on the bases and official dugout lineup cards and a special tribute video will be played in ballparks.

One of the A's newest players in 2020, Tony Kemp has dedicated much of his time to fundraising for community organizations providing resources during COVID-19 and also to using his platform to raise awareness and drive the conversation about racial injustice against Black people in America.

On June 5, a week into the nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis, Kemp decided to combat social injustice through individual conversations with the goal of changing one perspective that can go on to change one more. Kemp coined his cause the +1 Effect. Kemp teamed up with BreakingT to create T-shirts for the +1 Effect, with part of the proceeds benefiting **Campaign Zero**, an organization dedicated to decreasing police violence with its #cantwait initiative, as well as **Gideon's Army**, a Nashville-based nonprofit.

Earlier this year, Kemp also launched a fundraiser to help support organizations offering community support and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic in his hometown Nashville, as well as in Oakland and Houston. Kemp and his wife Michelle auctioned five autographed bobbleheads, raising more than \$8,000 for **Luke 14:12**, a nonprofit soup kitchen that provides free meals to the hungry, homeless, and working poor of Nashville; **Book'Em**, an organization that creates a more literate Nashville and ignites children's passion for reading through book ownership and enthusiastic volunteers; **Gideon's Army**, a Nashville organization that works to eliminate the root causes of the prison pipeline to save children from death and incarceration and guides them on a secure path to success; **Alameda County Community Food Bank**, an Oakland nonprofit that distributes millions of healthy meals every year and is at the forefront of new approaches to end hunger and poverty; and the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston**, which works to inspire and enable all youth to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

"We are extremely proud to recognize Tony as our 2020 nominee for the prestigious Roberto Clemente Award," said Catherine Aker, Oakland A's vice president of Communications and Community. "Tony's steadfast commitment to making a positive impact in the community by driving conversations and creating lasting change around social injustice has not wavered. He truly exemplifies the values and beliefs exemplified by Roberto Clemente."

Fans can vote for the Roberto Clemente Award at mlb.com/clemente21. The site features bios of each of the nominees and allows fans to vote until the end of the regular season on Sunday, Sept. 27. The winner of the fan vote will count as one vote among those cast by a blue ribbon panel that includes Baseball Commissioner Robert D. Manfred, Jr., representatives from MLB-affiliated networks (MLB Network, FOX Sports, ESPN, and TBS), MLB.com, as well as Roberto's children Enrique, Luis, and Roberto Jr.

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Contact: Erica George, 510.746.4419
egeorge@athletics.com