Barbara Summa of the North End discusses the Bank of Memories project and its goals and simple everyday life as a child.

Dominic Campochiaro chats about his childhood, war time memories and more.

Remember the hit tune “Mrs. Robinson” by Simon and Garfunkel? The song became a smash in the 1968 film “The Graduate” starring Dustin Hoffman. But some of the song’s lyrics refer to one of the 20th century’s sports icons, New York Yankees outfielder Joe DiMaggio. “Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio, our nation turns its lonely eyes to you. What’s that you say Mrs. Robinson, Junior Joe has left and gone away.”

Junior Joe was DiMaggio’s nickname. And Joe’s younger brother, Dom, played all 13 of his major league seasons with the Boston Red Sox. DiMaggio passed away May 8, 2005. He was 92. Archives pour over in a field from across America, the Red Sox organization, and the baseball world. Dom epitomized the qualities of not only a true professional athlete but a true human being. The quiet strength topped a gracious demeanor.

Not the great athlete like his brother Joe, Dom’s work ethic made him a solid base ball player with a stellar defense and clutch hitting. He played in the shadow of Ted Williams, and older brother Joe. He never complained about that during his baseball career, and years later in an interview he revealed the angst of playing in the shadow of a superstar brother. “It followed me all through my major league career. I was always Joe’s kid brother,” he said. But Dom’s intelligence as a mechanical engineer included other skills he performed superior to Joe: “I can do things that Joe has never done. Joe play pinball and speak Italian.” And Dom’s speed and skills aided in Williams’ leftfield position.

Let’s move forward to a different era in Major League Baseball. The year is 2004 and Manny Ramirez is a big cog in the wheel that drives the Red Sox to its first World Series title in 86 years. Manny also played a huge role in helping the Red Sox win their second World Series title in three years in 2007. Dom DiMaggio would have given much to experience those exciting accomplishments! Athlete-heroes in sports are forever chased around. But Ramirez is the consummate antithesis. I’ll give him just four for packing the stadium, numbers in hits, homers, RBIs and batting percentage during his eight years in Boston. But that’s where the celebratory calls end. And it would be appropriate to call the scholarly Dom DiMaggio because his story is too.

Dom arrived at Fenway Park to work at becoming the best baseball player possible. Manny’s tardiness, the famed ball yard proved legendary. Manny was being Manny when on a sweltering 100-plus degree game in Chicago in 2005 he didn’t play. He’s paid $15 million dollars a season. You Manny sits! Enablers Epstein and Francona looked the other way — no fine, no suspension.

Manny’s first full season with the Los Angeles Dodgers arrived as expected: showing up three weeks late to this year’s spring training. You see, over the winter Manny was being Manny, demanding a four-year deal worth a whopping $42 million. But he’s dealing with Los Angeles, not Bos- ton. Manny and his agent Scott Boras held out for a four-year deal that never came. Instead, the cash-rich Dodgers foolishly overpaid over $8 million dollars more than their original offer. But Manny’s always full of surprises. The Dodgers offered a one-year contract from Dodger’s officials and teammates alike when in 2008 Manny and his lawyers cooked up a banned drug that drew a 50- game suspension without pay.

Weeks of silence proved deafening as Manny cow- napped in the confines of his multi-million dollar crib. Ordered by Dodgers of ficials to “publicly” apologize to his teammates, Manny thumbed his nose. Soon af- ter the suspension began his ego deflated like a lead bal- loon and he met in Dodger Stadium with his soul to his teammates.

I doubt Manny missed get- ting a few team line drives to the park to shag balls under the searing Southern Cali- fornia sun. And he definitely didn't fret over losing money as millions of Americans lost their jobs and health insurance since the end of last summer while Manny braved west to Man- nypwood. His suspension nearly over, Manny’s playing Class A minor league ball before rejining the Dodgers this month.

To the displeasure of the groupies still infatuated with the ego-inducing an- tics of Manny Ramirez, we baseball purists yearn for guys like Dom DiMaggio, and so many others, to return to us the simpler times in major league baseball.

Re redeeming qualities such as quiet strength, a tireless work ethic, and respect for his teammates and fans, won Dom a place in the baseball hall of famous- tions. That’s more than will ever be anointed to Manny despite two World Series titles.

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Davide Girola interviews Vincenzo Capogreco of East Boston.

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