



John and Rod Kelly Baseball Field at Douglass Park

Dedication

5:45 p.m., May 12, 2018

Opening ~ Mike Griggs, Director, Columbia Parks and Recreation

Remarks ~ Clyde Ruffin, Ward 1 Council Member, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Mike Harvey, President, Douglass Athletic Association

Remarks ~ John Kelly

Concluding Remarks ~ Mike Griggs

Plaque Unveiling

Please stay and enjoy festivities at the Heritage Day Block Party, free activities and Job Fair until 8 p.m.



John and Rod Kelly are known as the “baseball brothers” at Douglass Park. The Kellys have been instrumental in the formation and development of the Douglass Bulldog Baseball League, which began in 1996.



Douglass Baseball is a non-competitive league for boys and girls, designed to teach basic baseball skills, cooperation and teamwork. It also provides a positive recreational opportunity, bringing additional people to Douglass Park, all enjoying a family-friendly activity. The Douglass Athletic Association board organizes the league with Columbia Parks and Recreation.

The Kelly brothers were involved with Douglass Bulldog Baseball from the inception of the league. Even before that, they were interested in sports and its positive impact on youth. John retired in 1997 from his position as assistant principal and athletic director at Hickman High School. Rod worked at Shelter Insurance, Columbia Public Schools and the University of Missouri as the voice of the Mizzou basketball team. As youth growing up in Columbia, both Kellys played baseball at the Douglass playground, starting their lifelong love of sports and community.

“They (the Kellys) are true leaders and heroes, not only for the community served by Douglass Park, but they are outstanding examples for all of Columbia.”

Steve Calloway, Minority Men’s Network, from a statement of support submitted to the Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission