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**NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE**  
**From the Office of the Mayor**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE WALK-THROUGH HISTORY PROGRAM UNVEILS ITS 43<sup>RD</sup>  
PLAQUE IN HONOR OF THE LATE RITA MEYER MOELLERING**



Pictured above is Mayor Lowery and Laura Moellering daughter of the late Rita Meyer Moellering

An overwhelming crowd of family and friends gathered in front of 990 rue St. Francois on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> to unveil the 43<sup>rd</sup> Walk Through History plaque in honor of the late Rita Meyer Moellering before the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony that was held on the front lawn of city hall.

Rita Ann Meyer Moellering, born in Florissant, was a shortstop and pitcher who played from 1946 through 1949 for the Peoria Redwings of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

Rita Meyer was the oldest of seven children. A good fielding shortstop and average hitter during her four seasons in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), she was one of 13 players who made the AAGPBL clubs hailed from Missouri. Rita was nicknamed “Slats” after St. Louis Cardinals’ shortstop Marty Marion, given the nickname, because someone said her style reminded them of how Marion played – quite a common way to get a nickname in sports.

In 1946, Rita tried out for the league at spring training in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and was allocated to the Redwings expansion team based in Peoria, Illinois. She appeared regularly at shortstop and also pitched in 13 games in 1947. Rita hurled a no-hitter in that season, but lost the game, 1–0. Her most productive season came in 1948, when she posted career-highs in batting average (.232), doubles (12), stolen bases (45) and runs batted in (68).

The Redwings advanced to the first round of the playoffs for the first – and only – time in team history, but were swept by the Racine Belles in three straight games.

Rita Meyer married Robert Moellering in 1949. She became an active participant in public school sports for the rest of her life. On November 5, 1988, she was honored with the rest of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League during the opening of a permanent display at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. Besides this, the St. Louis Sports Commission presents the Rita "Slats" Meyer Moellering Memorial Award, in honor of her, to recognize the accomplishments of women in individual sports. Her many hobbies included collecting emblems, poems and Dick Tracy comic strips. She was also depicted in the 1988 movie, “League of Their Own”.