



## **Mariano and Clara Rivera**

*New York Yankees Hall of Fame Legend and  
Pastor of Refuge of Hope*

Mariano Rivera is a Major League Baseball (MLB) Hall of Famer who played 19 seasons for the New York Yankees and retired in 2013, closing a stellar career as a relief pitcher that included 17 seasons as their closer. A 13-time All-Star and 5-time World Series champion, he is MLB's career leader in saves (652) and games finished (952). Among his many accolades, Rivera won five American League (AL) Rolaids Relief Man Awards and three Delivery Man of the Year Awards and finished in the top three in voting for the AL Cy Young Award four times. Rivera was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2019 in his first year of eligibility and was the first player elected unanimously by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Raised in Panama in the village of Puerto Caimito, Rivera signed a contract with the Yankees in 1990. He began his career in the major leagues in 1995 as a starting pitcher before converting to a reliever later in his rookie year and became the Yankees' closer in 1997. Over the course of his career he established a reputation as one of MLB's top relievers and was the saves leader in 1999, 2001, and 2004. Rivera was a key contributor to the Yankees' success from the late 1990s through early 2000s. A highly accomplished postseason performer, he was named the 1999 World Series MVP and 2003 AL Championship Series MVP. His postseason records include lowest ERA (0.70) and most Saves (42). Widely regarded as one of the most dominant relievers in MLB history, his records include recording Saves in at least 25 games in 15 consecutive seasons and posting an ERA under 2.00 in 11 seasons. His career 2.21 ERA and 1.00 WHIP are the lowest in the live-ball era among qualified pitchers. In 2013 the Yankees retired his uniform number 42, and he was the last MLB player to wear it following its league-wide retirement in honor of Jackie Robinson. In 2014, MLB named its AL Reliever of the Year Award in Rivera's honor.

A devout Christian, Rivera has been involved in charitable causes and supports his religious community through the Mariano Rivera Foundation. In 2019 he was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. Mariano and his wife Clara Younce Rivera attended the same Elementary School in Panama, started dating in high school, and married in 1991. They have 3 sons, Mariano Jr., Jafet and Janziel. Clara serves as Pastor of Refuge of Hope in New Rochelle, NY, a church the Rivera's purchased and restored in 2014.