



NEWS RELEASE

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CAL RIPKEN, JR., KEVIN COWHERD HOLD BOOK DISCUSSION, SIGNING AT ABINGDON LIBRARY

(Belcamp, Maryland – March 13, 2015) Author and baseball player Cal Ripken, Jr. greeted fans at the Abingdon Branch of Harford County Public Library on Monday, March 9th, where he and co-author Kevin Cowherd discussed their latest children's book, *Out at Home*.

The book follows two 12-year-old boys who are rivals on and off the baseball field but must learn to work together to win a championship game. Ripken and Cowherd talked about the challenges of growing up but emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive outlook and never giving up on goals.

The authors took questions from the audience, including one from Forest Lakes Elementary fourth-grader Ethan Rhinehart, who said he was writing a report on Cal Ripken, Sr. and asked Ripken, Jr. what his parents had taught him. "To be nice and helpful and considerate to others," the younger Ripken replied.

After winning a raffle to meet Ripken with eight of her friends and family members at a private reception before the event, Library customer Debbie Gibbons said she was thrilled to share the special experience with those closest to her. "I feel like I found a patch of four-leaf clovers," Gibbons said.

Patricia and Brad Lovelace also were excited to meet the Iron Man. "We love Cal; we love the Orioles; we love the Harford County Public Library!" Brad Lovelace exclaimed.

All proceeds from the sold-out event benefit the Library's Summer Reading Program. In 2014, over 17,000 children and teens registered for the Summer Reading Program, which aims to inspire a love of reading in the Library's youngest customers and prevent summer learning loss. The 2015 Summer Reading Program will begin on June 22.

Out at Home is Ripken's fifth book in his children's series. Others are *Hothead*, *Super-sized Slugger*, *Wild Pitch* and *Squeeze Play*. Library customers can check out these titles at their local Library branch and can reserve a copy by visiting hcplonline.org.

Harford County Public Library operates 11 branches located throughout Harford County, Maryland. The Library serves over 191,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of over 4.1 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading within the community.

Photo caption #1: Cal Ripken, Jr. and Kevin Cowherd talk to a sold-out crowd at the Abingdon Library Monday, March 9th.

Photo caption #2: Orioles fans wait excitedly to meet Cal Ripken, Jr.

Photo caption #3: Cal Ripken, Jr. poses with a young fan.

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