



CDR (ret) Denise McCallaCreary, USN
JA Honorary Consul, Northern California (Pg.5)

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Caribbean American Diaspora Newspaper

Bulkeley High School's Baseball Legacy: Bulkeley Hall of Fame (HOF) Hartford Players that Rose to Greatness

Bulkeley High School's baseball tradition is much deeper than a list of wins and losses. As the Hartford school approaches its 100th centennial era, its athletic history includes several remarkable players who went on to distinguish themselves in professional, Negro League, semiprofessional and coaching careers. Among the most notable are Johnny "Schoolboy" Taylor, Bob "Spike" Repass, and John "Jack" Repass, along with baseball standout and longtime coach and scout John "Whitey" Piurek.



BHS legend Johnny Taylor (L) with the legendary Satchel Paige after Taylor tossed a no-hitter against Paige's team. New York, Sept 19, 1937.

South End of Hartford to Professional Baseball, Bulkeley Produced Players Who Left Their Mark on the Game



Johnny A. Taylor
BHS HOF Inaugural class 2015



THE MORGAN GARDNER BULKELEY HIGH SCHOOL, CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HARTFORD, CT – For generations, Bulkeley High School has been more than a place where young Hartford residents received an education. It

has also been a training ground for athletes whose accomplishments reached far beyond the school's playing fields.

Among the most impressive chapters in Bulkeley's athletic history is its

baseball tradition. Long before today's professional sports culture, Bulkeley's baseball program produced players who competed at some of the highest levels available to them. Their stories include Major League Baseball, the Negro Leagues, professional minor-league baseball and decades of service to baseball as coaches, scouts and community leaders.

Johnny "Schoolboy" Taylor: A Hartford Baseball Pioneer

Taylor's story is particularly significant because his career developed during an era when racial segregation prevented many talented Black athletes from playing Major League Baseball.

Born in Hartford in 1916, Taylor grew up in the city's South End and initially concentrated on track and field at Bulkeley, competing in the high jump and pole vault. It was not until his senior year that he joined the school's baseball team.

Once he reached the mound, however, Taylor quickly became a sensation.

Playing for the Bulkeley Maroons under legendary coach Babe Allen, Taylor struck out 17 batters against West Hartford High School and later recorded 19 strikeouts against Hartford Hilltoppers. In his final high-school game, he established what the Greater Hartford Twilight

racial restrictions. Taylor refused to misrepresent his identity.

Instead, Taylor forged an outstanding career in the Negro Leagues and other professional leagues.

He played for clubs including the New York Cubans, Pittsburgh Crawfords, Toledo Crawfords and Newark Eagles, while also pitching in Mexico and Cuba. One of the highlights of his career came in 1937, when Taylor threw a no-hitter against a team associated with legendary pitcher Satchel Paige at New York's Polo



Taylor demonstrates table version of a fork ball. Next to him are Rev. Biagio Cretella and Mike SanGiacomo. 2nd row, Jim McDermott, former major leaguer Spike Repass and Jimmy Francolini at a dinner gathering.

He also finished his senior season with a .428 batting average and eight victories.

His performance attracted the attention of Major League scouts, including representatives of the New York Yankees. But Taylor faced a barrier that had nothing to do with his ability. Because he was Black, he was denied the opportunity to sign with a Major League club at a time when baseball remained segregated. According to accounts of his career, a Yankees scout suggested that Taylor claim Cuban heritage in order to circumvent the

Grounds.

Taylor eventually returned home and made history again. In 1949, he signed with the Hartford Chiefs, becoming Hartford's first professional Black athlete. Today, his legacy is permanently connected to Hartford baseball. Field 9 at Colt Park was renamed Johnny Taylor Field in 2021, recognizing his contribution to the city and to baseball.

Bob "Spike" Repass: From Bulkeley to the Major Leagues

Another extraordinary Bulkeley baseball
(continued pg 3)



Bulkeley High School 1933 Baseball Team, Johnny "Schoolboy" Taylor (Front row; 2nd from the left)

BULKELEY HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME



Save the Date

Join the BHS Hall of Fame in Celebrating
Bulkeley High School's
100th Birthday

Sunday, October 11th, 2026
4:00PM-7:00PM
The Aqua Turf Club
556 Mulberry Street Plantsville, CT 06479

Hosted by the

BHS Hall of Fame / \$20 Cost for Birthday Celebration Only

To include pizza, coffee, deserts and soft drinks

Payable to: BHS/HOF
49 Barry Place, Rocky Hill, CT. 06067

\$100 dinner donation also gives you attendance at the BHS 100th Birthday celebration



A centennial donation of \$100.00 will put your name on the Centennial Donors Plaque that will be displayed in the newly renovated Bulkeley High School gym. Donations will also be placed in the BHS-HOF program.

Make checks payable to BHS Athletic Hall of Fame

Full page Ad \$100 / 3/4 page Ad \$75.00 / 1/2 page Ad \$50.00 / 1/4 page Ad \$25.00

Questions, contact Terry Paluch '77 @paluchbhs34@gmail.com

100th ANNIVERSARY / BULKELEY HIGH SCHOOL

Caribbean American Diaspora Newspaper, August 20, 2026

product was Robert “Spike” Repass, a member of the Class of 1935.



Bob “Spike” Repass BHS HOF class of 2016

Repass was a three-sport star at Bulkeley, earning nine varsity letters. Baseball, however, was the sport in which he truly excelled. The school’s Hall of Fame biography notes that he played three years under Babe Allen and became one of Connecticut’s outstanding young baseball players.

After Bulkeley, Repass joined the Hartford Twilight Baseball League. before entering professional baseball. He signed with the St. Louis Cardinals organization in 1937 and quickly demonstrated that he belonged among the country’s top young players.

According to Baseball-Reference, Repass made his Major League debut with the Cardinals on September 18, 1939. He later played for the Washington Senators and appeared at second base, third base and shortstop. His Major League career included 84 games over two seasons, 265 at-bats, 64 hits, two home runs, 24

RBIs and a .242 batting average. His professional career extended beyond the Major Leagues. Repass played in the minor leagues and later returned to Hartford, where he played for the Hartford Chiefs and other local teams. The Greater Hartford Twilight Baseball League records that he hit 19 home runs for the Baltimore Orioles organization in 1946 and continued participating in baseball well after his professional career ended.

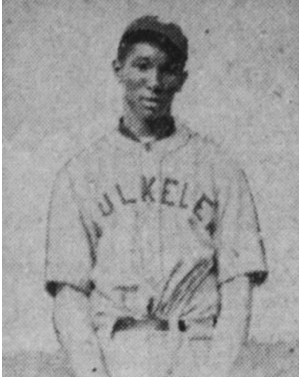
The Repass Baseball Family

The Repass baseball story did not stop with Bob. His brothers, *Charles “Charlie” Repass Jr. and John “Jack” Repass, also graduated from Bulkeley and became important



Charlie Repass, Bulkeley High School, 1929.

figures in Hartford baseball. The three brothers were raised in Hartford’s South End and all starred for the Bulkeley baseball team. Their



Johnny Taylor joined the BHS Baseball team in his senior year. connection to baseball continued into the Hartford Twilight League, one of the country’s oldest organized amateur baseball leagues.

Charlie Repass was a talented right-handed pitcher and outfielder. He played for the Hartford Cardinals and later the Home Circle team of the Hartford Twilight League In



Negro League All-Star Game at Comiskey Park, Chicago, Illinois, (Taylor, standing second from left) 1938. He went on to throw a dozen no-hitters as an ace in the Negro National League.

1931, he helped Home Circle reach a second-place finish in the league championship. His promising baseball career was tragically cut short when he died in 1933.

Jack Repass, the youngest of the brothers, was known as a speedy infielder and strong contact hitter. After Bulkeley, he played for several Hartford-area teams and eventually became a player-manager. His career also included military service during the Korean War, after which he returned to Hartford baseball. Together, the three brothers represent one of the most fascinating baseball families in Hartford history.

Whitey Piurek: From Bulkeley Player to Baseball Institution

Bulkeley’s baseball legacy also includes John “Whitey” Piurek, who graduated with the Class of 1935.

Piurek was a standout shortstop at Bulkeley and played alongside Johnny Taylor and Bob Repass. He was also the school’s valedictorian. His baseball ability earned him an opportunity to play at Holy Cross, where he became a highly regarded player.

But Piurek’s greatest contribution to baseball came after his playing career.

He became a teacher, coach, scout and athletic administrator. As head baseball coach at West Haven High School, he compiled an extraordinary 526-115-2 record from 1945 through 1981. His teams won two Connecticut state



Coach Arthur “Babe” Allen. Mr. Allen coached football, basketball and baseball (1926 - 1963). Entered BHS HOF Inaugural class in 2015.

career ultimately earned him multiple honors and places in several athletic halls of fame.

A Baseball Tradition Worth Remembering

carried the lessons of Bulkeley into the wider baseball world.

Taylor broke barriers when professional baseball denied him an opportunity in the Major Leagues. Repass reached the Major Leagues and became one of Hartford’s professional baseball success stories. Piurek spent decades developing generations of young athletes. The Repass brothers helped sustain the city’s strong amateur baseball tradition.

Their accomplishments are especially meaningful as Bulkeley celebrates its long athletic history. The school continues to field baseball teams today, and in 2024 the Bulldogs played a home game at Hartford’s Dunkin’ Donuts Park, home of the Hartford Yard Goats, giving a new generation of Bulkeley players the opportunity to experience professional baseball’s atmosphere.

The names of these former Bulldogs deserve to remain part of Hartford’s sporting history.

Johnny “Schoolboy” Taylor. Bob “Spike” Repass. Charlie Repass. Jack Repass. Whitey Piurek.

They represent different eras and different paths through baseball, but together they tell a powerful story about talent, perseverance, opportunity and Hartford pride.

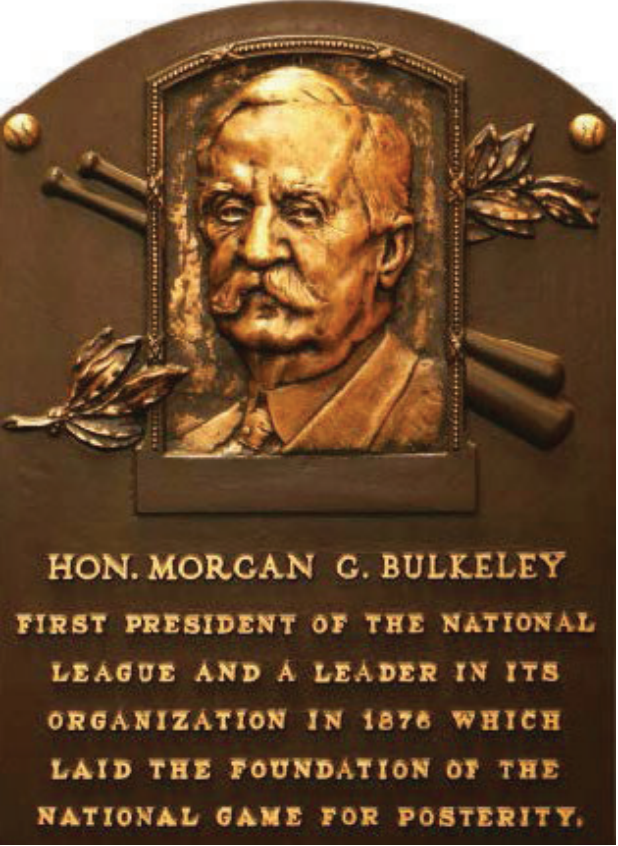
For Bulkeley High School, their accomplishments are more than memories from old yearbooks. They are part of a baseball legacy that continues to inspire the Bulldogs who take the field today.



John “Whitey” Piurek graduated from Bulkeley as valedictorian of the Class of 1935. Joined teammates Taylor and Repass in BHS HOF in 2016.

He also spent decades as a professional scout, working for organizations including the Brooklyn Dodgers, Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox, New York Yankees, San Francisco Giants and Seattle Mariners. His

contribution to baseball cannot be measured simply by championship banners. These players came from different backgrounds and pursued different paths, but they shared something important: they developed their baseball talents in Hartford and



Useful, Stimulating & Eye-Opening
Health & Wellness Seminars

- *1. **Peri/Menopause (Female) & Andropause (Male) Hormonal Imbalance (9/13)**
(Hotflashes, Weight gain, Brain fog, Low energy, Sexual dysfunction, Mood disorders, Dry skin/hair...)
- *2. **Practical ways to improve our physical & mental health (9/27)**
(Obesity, Diabetes, High blood pressure, Cancer, Alzheimer’s, Cholesterol, Brain/Mood disorders, Violence...)
** **Understand The Impacts Of:** Diet, Lifestyle habits, Natural remedies, Environmental toxins & Medications on many health concerns

Audience: Men & Women; Young & Old
Dates: Sunday, Sept 13th & 27th, 2026; 1:45 - 4:30 PM
Check-In Begins @ 1:15 pm
Location: Hartford Public Library’s, Downtown Library
Travelers Center for Arts & Culture, 1st Floor
500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103
Cost (Before Event): \$15 (one) & \$25 (both) sessions
Cost (At The Door): \$20 (one) & \$35 (both) sessions
Raffle: \$5 (9/27)

****Registration Required**
Sign-Up & Pay Here: <https://bit.ly/4ftS8nv>



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 - **Nick DeSorbo, APRN** (DeSorbo Health + Wellness, Glastonbury, CT; 9/13)
 - **Dr. H. R. Silverstein, Integrationist, MD** (St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, CT; 9/27)
 - **Yvette Williams, MBA, PMP, DPP, Health Researcher** (2 Your Health, Hartford, CT; 9/13, 9/27)

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FORMER US NAVY COMMANDER APPOINTED JAMAICAN HONORARY CONSUL

By Dr. Mark D. Milward, LHD, MBB



INTERVIEW ON THE JAMAICA DIASPORA SHOW WHILE SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF NNOA & JAANC. SEPT. 2018

Denise Jacqueline McCallaCreary represents a remarkable story of determination, leadership and service. Born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, McCallaCreary migrated to the United States as a teenager and went on to build an accomplished career as a United States Navy officer, community leader, mentor and advocate for the Jamaican-American community.

Her journey from Jamaica to senior leadership in the U.S. military is a story that reflects the possibilities created through education, perseverance and a commitment to serving others.

From Kingston to the United States Navy

McCallaCreary enlisted in the Naval Reserves in October 1973, beginning a military career that would span more than two decades. She initially served as an Aviation Storekeeper at Naval Air Station Glenview in Illinois.

While pursuing her military career, she also invested in her education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management and Spanish from Northeastern Illinois University in 1978. That same year, she entered

full-time military duty and subsequently received an opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Her advancement from an enlisted service member to a commissioned officer demonstrated both professional ability and a willingness to accept new challenges.

During her Navy career, McCallaCreary served in leadership positions and earned numerous military honors, including the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Humanitarian Service Medal and other awards recognizing her service. She retired from the Navy in 2000, but retirement did not mark the end of her commitment to leadership and service.

Making History With the National Naval Officers Association

One of the most significant accomplishments of McCallaCreary's career came in 2016, when she was elected president of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA).

Her election was historic. McCallaCreary became

the first woman to serve as president of the organization in its 44-year history.

The NNOA works to support recruitment, development and retention of a diverse officer corps within the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As president, McCallaCreary emphasized membership growth, education, mentorship and community service. Her leadership philosophy centered on helping others succeed and strengthening the pipeline of talented military leaders. Her own experiences as an immigrant and military officer helped shape that philosophy. During an NNOA symposium, she described coming to the United States from Jamaica without a military background but with a strong desire to succeed. She credited mentors who helped her along the way and said those experiences influenced her desire to lead and mentor others.

A Commitment to Mentorship

Mentorship has remained an important part of McCallaCreary's work.

For many years, she



MRS. DENISE MCCALLACREARY

served in the NNOA's Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps program, helping young people interested in military service and leadership. NNOA records identify her as a longtime NROTC coordinator and life member of the organization.

Her leadership has extended beyond the military. She has been involved with the Military Officers Association and the Jamaican American Association of Northern California. She also became a founding member of the Merl Grove High School Jamaica Northeast American Past Students Chapter. These activities illustrate a career built not only around personal achievement but also around creating opportunities for others.

Serving the Jamaican-American Community

McCallaCreary's Jamaican heritage has remained an important part of her identity and community involvement.

She has served as a leader of the Jamaican American Association of Northern California, an organization dedicated to maintaining connections among Jamaicans and people of Jamaican heritage in Northern California. A 2017 communica-

tion from the association identified McCallaCreary as its president.

Honorary Consul Appointment

The Government of Jamaica has officially designated her as Honorary Consul of Jamaica in San Jose, California, reflecting her involvement in the broader Jamaican community and its institutions. An honorary consul is a private citizen appointed by a foreign government to represent its interests, assist its travelers, and promote trade and cultural ties in a specific city or region. Unlike career diplomats, they are unpaid volunteers who maintain outside careers and are often local residents of the host country

Life After the Navy

McCallaCreary's post-military life has been equally diverse. A National Naval Officers Association biography describes her as pursuing several interests, including independent business, volunteer work and acting in film and television. She has developed an acting portfolio that includes television, commercial and multimedia work, demonstrating that her interests extend well beyond her military career.

She has also entered the financial-services field, describing her interest in financial education and investing as another way to continue learning and helping herself and others.

A Legacy of Leadership

Denise McCallaCreary's story is significant because it crosses several worlds: Jamaica and the United States, military service and civilian life, professional achievement and community activism.

Her historic election as the first woman president of the National Naval Officers Association was an important milestone. But her larger legacy may be found in the mentoring, community service and leadership development that have accompanied her career.

From Kingston, Jamaica, to the United States Navy and eventually to senior leadership in a national military organization, McCallaCreary has demonstrated that success is not simply measured by the positions one achieves. It can also be measured by the people one helps along the way.

For members of the Jamaican and wider Caribbean-American diaspora, her journey offers an especially meaningful example of how immigrants can contribute to American institutions while maintaining strong connections to their cultural heritage. McCallaCreary's life reflects a powerful combination of service, education, leadership, resilience and community commitment—qualities that continue to inspire the next generation of Caribbean-Americans seeking to make their own mark in the United States.

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DELANO SEIVERIGHT MP MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY INVESTMENT AND COMMERCE (MAIN SUPPORTER)
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2ND ANNUAL

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THEME

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ADVANCING JAMAICA TOGETHER

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RAISING CEREMONY

WITH OUR STAMFORD MAYOR

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Read the Caribbean American Diaspora Newspaper online at cad-news.org

Bulkeley High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Centennial Inductees Class of 2026

Banquet & Induction Ceremony October 11, 2026

The Bulkeley High School Athletic Hall of Fame will host a banquet and induction ceremony for the Class of 2026 inductees on Sunday, Oct 11, 2026, at 11:30am at The Aqua Turf, Southington, CT. For more details/reservations please contact Bob Raffalo 860-227-0438.

Francis Louis DeLoreto
Posthumously
Joseph (Joe) Sinicrope
George J. Kokinis Jr.
Stephen Kushman
Morris Lee Jackson
Elizabeth Gemetti
Dr. Mark Douglas Milward
Mark Snyder

Patricia "Patty" A. Torza
Steven Snyder
Lynn Snyder Vasquez
(Al) Mozallen McFadden
Richard Santo Motta
John P. Nisyrios
Gino Caro
Langston Johnson
John Wallace Dyson Jr.

Leo Cadio Cruz Jr.
Jay Snyder
Michael Snyder
Basillio Ortiz
Harry Maldonado
Posthumously
Diane Callis Coach
Peter Kowalski Coach

Donations are welcome. Please support the Bulkeley High School Athletic Hall of Fame with a tax-deductible donation.
Please make check payable to: BHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Mail to: BHS Athletic Hall of Fame, 49 Barry Place, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

If you have questions, contact Terry Paluch '77 at paluchbhs34@gmail.com.
Your donation is tax deductible. BHS HOF is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

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2026

BULKELEY HIGH SCHOOL

HALL OF FAME



INDUCTION CEREMONY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2026
4:00PM-7:00PM
THE AQUA TURF CLUB
556 MULBERRY STREET PLANTSVILLE, CT 06479

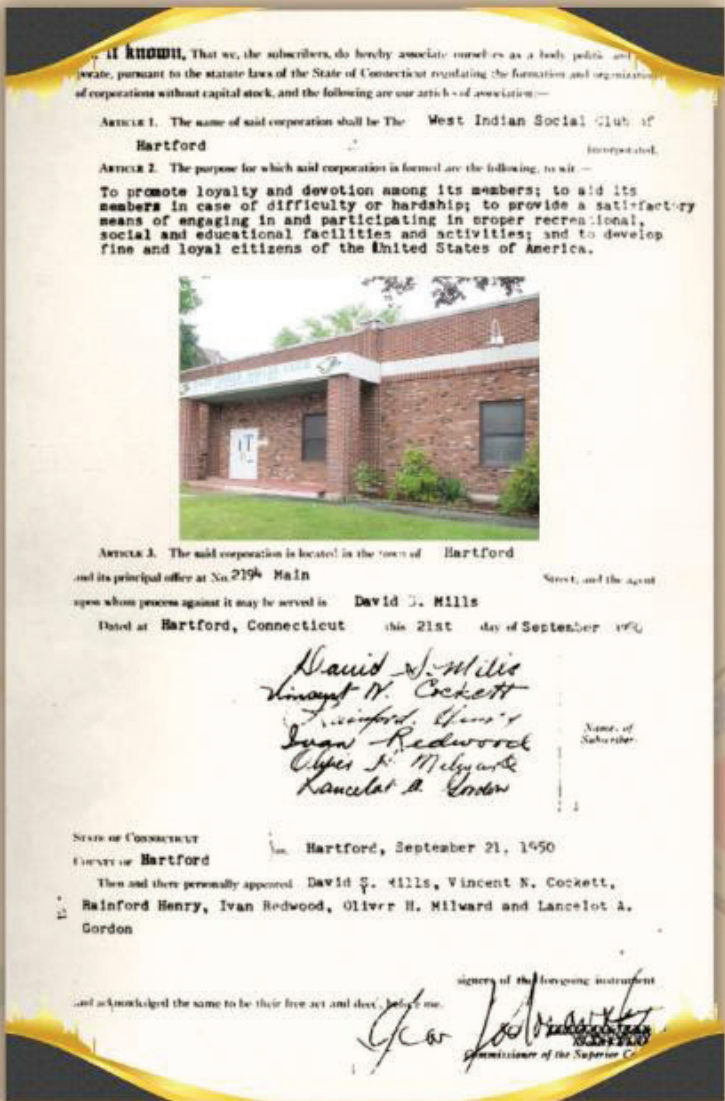
WISC Celebrating 76 Years



THE JAMAICA DIASPORA



Congratulates the Founding Fathers, Founding Mothers and Founding Members of the West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Incorporated by:
David S. Mills, Vincent W. Cockett, Rainford Henry, Ivan Redwood, Oliver H. Milward and Lancelot Gordon, Sr. in Hartford on
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2026