

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 149

Recognizing the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 3, 2002

Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation.

Whereas even though African-Americans were excluded from playing in the major leagues of baseball with their Caucasian counterparts, the desire of some African-Americans to play baseball could not be repressed;

Whereas Major League Baseball was not fully integrated until July 1959;

Whereas African-Americans began organizing their own professional baseball teams in 1885;

Whereas 6 separate baseball leagues, known collectively as the Negro Baseball Leagues, were organized by African-Americans between 1920 and 1960;

Whereas the Negro Baseball Leagues included exceptionally talented players;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began in the Negro Baseball Leagues, was named Rookie of the Year in 1947 and subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 National League pennants and a World Series championship;

Whereas by achieving success on the baseball field, African-American baseball players helped break down color barriers and integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the United States;

Whereas during World War II, more than 50 Negro Baseball League players served in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas during an era of sexism and gender barriers, 3 women played in the Negro Baseball Leagues;

Whereas the Negro Baseball Leagues helped teach the people of the United States that what matters most is not the color of a person's skin, but the content of that person's character and the measure of that person's skills and abilities;

Whereas only in recent years has the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues begun receiving the recognition that it deserves;

Whereas in 1997 Major League Baseball created a pension plan for former players of the Negro Baseball Leagues who went on to play in Major League Baseball; and

Whereas baseball is the national pastime and reflects the history of the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

1 (1) recognizes the teams and players of the Negro
2 Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sac-
3 rifices, and contributions to both baseball and our Nation;
4 and

5 (2) encourages Major League Baseball in 2002 to
6 reach a fair compensation agreement with former players
7 of the Negro Baseball Leagues who were excluded under
8 Major League Baseball's 1997 pension plan.

○