

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1900

To award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. FORD, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. WYNN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WATT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. LEE, Mr. NEY, Mr. BALLANCE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. FATAH, Ms. MAJETTE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOEHLERT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SWEENEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Jackie Roosevelt Robinson was born on  
4 January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, and was the  
5 youngest of 5 children.

6 (2) Jackie Robinson attended the University of  
7 California Los Angeles where he starred in football,  
8 basketball, baseball, and track. His remarkable skills  
9 earned him a reputation as the best athlete in Amer-  
10 ica.

11 (3) In 1947, Jackie Robinson was signed by the  
12 Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black player  
13 to play in Major League Baseball. His signing is  
14 considered one of the most significant moments in  
15 the history of professional sports in America. For  
16 his remarkable performance on the field in his first  
17 season, he won the National League's Rookie of the  
18 Year Award.

19 (4) In 1949, Jackie Robinson was voted the  
20 National League's Most Valuable Player by the  
21 Baseball Writers Association of America.

22 (5) In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the  
23 Baseball Hall of Fame.

24 (6) Although the achievements of Jackie Robin-  
25 son began with athletics, they widened to have a

1 profound influence on civil and human rights in  
2 America.

3 (7) The signing of Jackie Robinson as the first  
4 black player in Major League Baseball occurred be-  
5 fore the United States military was desegregated by  
6 President Harry Truman, before the civil rights  
7 marches took place in the South, and before the Su-  
8 preme Court issued its historic ruling in *Brown v.*  
9 *Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

10 (8) The American public came to regard Jackie  
11 Robinson as a person of exceptional fortitude, integ-  
12 rity, and athletic ability so rapidly that, by the end  
13 of 1947, he finished ahead of President Harry Tru-  
14 man, General Dwight Eisenhower, General Douglas  
15 MacArthur, and Bob Hope in a national poll for the  
16 most popular person in America, finishing only be-  
17 hind Bing Crosby.

18 (9) Jackie Robinson was named vice president  
19 of Chock Full O' Nuts in 1957 and later co-founded  
20 the Freedom National Bank of Harlem.

21 (10) Leading by example, Jackie Robinson in-  
22 fluenced many of the greatest political leaders in  
23 America.

1           (11) Jackie Robinson worked tirelessly with a  
2           number of religious and civic organizations to better  
3           the lives of all Americans.

4           (12) The life and principles of Jackie Robinson  
5           are the basis of the Jackie Robinson Foundation,  
6           which keeps his memory alive by providing children  
7           of low-income families with leadership and edu-  
8           cational opportunities.

9           (13) The legacy and personal achievements of  
10          Jackie Robinson, as an athlete, a business leader,  
11          and a citizen, have had a lasting and positive influ-  
12          ence on the advancement of civil rights in the United  
13          States.

14   **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

15          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is  
16          authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to the  
17          family of Jackie Robinson, a gold medal of appropriate  
18          design in recognition of the many contributions of Jackie  
19          Robinson to the Nation.

20          (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the  
21          presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary  
22          of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
23          retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
24          devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
25          retary.

1 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

2 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-  
3 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
4 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price  
5 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,  
6 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

7 **SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.**

8 The medals struck under this Act are national medals  
9 for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
12 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint  
13 Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000  
14 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section  
15 2.

16 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the  
17 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be  
18 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise  
19 Fund.

20 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

21 It is the sense of the Congress that—

22 (1) there should be designated a national day  
23 for the purpose of recognizing the accomplishments  
24 of Jackie Robinson; and

1           (2) the President should issue a proclamation  
2           calling on the people of the United States to observe  
3           the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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