

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 300

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 Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 4, 2003

Mr. KERRY (for himself Mr. McCAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

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

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

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

22 (6) Although the achievements of Jackie Robin-
23 son began with athletics, they widened to have a
24 profound influence on civil and human rights in
25 America.

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

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

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

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

22 (11) Jackie Robinson worked tirelessly with a
23 number of religious and civic organizations to better
24 the lives of all Americans.

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

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

11 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

12 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is
13 authorized to present, on behalf of Congress, to the family
14 of Jackie Robinson, a gold medal of appropriate design
15 in recognition of the many contributions of Jackie Robin-
16 son to the Nation.

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

23 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
25 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in

1 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price
2 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
3 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

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

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

7 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

17 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

18 It is the sense of Congress that—

19 (1) there should be designated a national day
20 for the purpose of recognizing the accomplishments
21 of Jackie Robinson; and

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

○