

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 533

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the permanent integration of professional football by 4 pioneering players.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2006

Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the permanent integration of professional football by 4 pioneering players.

Whereas the integration of sports supported other ongoing efforts to permanently end racial segregation as an accepted practice in the United States;

Whereas, in 1946, 4 African-American football players, William “Bill” K. Willis and Marion Motley, who played for the Cleveland Browns, and Kenny Washington and Woody Strode, who played for the Los Angeles Rams, all signed contracts to play professional football;

Whereas, on August 7, 1946, Bill Willis was the first of this pioneering foursome to sign a contract to play professional football for the Cleveland Browns forever ending the race barrier in professional football, 1 full year before

Jackie Robinson broke the race barrier in professional baseball;

Whereas, thanks to the significant contributions of Bill Willis and Marion Motley, the Cleveland Browns won the National Football League (NFL) Championship in 1950 which was the first year the Cleveland Browns played in the NFL;

Whereas, in addition to permanently ending the race barrier in professional football, Bill Willis and Marion Motley were recognized for their outstanding professional football careers by their election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame; and

Whereas 2006 marks the 60th anniversary of the permanent integration of professional football, and the NFL will commemorate this milestone during the 2006 Pro Football Hall of Fame Game: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of the per-  
3       manent integration of professional football; and

4               (2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the  
5       Senate to transmit for appropriate display an en-  
6       rolled copy of this resolution to—

7                       (A) the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Can-  
8       ton, Ohio; and

9                       (B) William K. Willis, the only surviving  
10       member of the pioneering foursome who perma-

1 nently ended the race barrier in professional  
2 football.

