

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4065

To obtain and direct the placement in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds of a statue to honor American humanitarian and star athlete Roberto Clemente of Puerto Rico.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2023

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To obtain and direct the placement in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds of a statue to honor American humanitarian and star athlete Roberto Clemente of Puerto Rico.

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 finds the following:

5 (1) Roberto Clemente Walker was born in San
6 Antón Ward, at the time a sugarcane growing com-
7 munity in Carolina, Puerto Rico, on August 18,

1 1934, to working class parents Melchor Clemente
2 and Luisa Walker.

3 (2) Showing an early athletic talent, Clemente
4 excelled in track and field events at Vizcarrondo
5 High School, but baseball was his true passion, and
6 he began his professional baseball career in the
7 Puerto Rico Winter League at age 17.

8 (3) Scouted by the Dodgers at age 18, he spent
9 a short time in the minor leagues in that organiza-
10 tion before being drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates,
11 where he remained for his entire time in Major
12 League Baseball.

13 (4) Clemente was one of the pioneers who still
14 had to face persistent discrimination and negative
15 attitudes related to his origin and culture on and off
16 the field and in the media, but his talent and dis-
17 cipline soon spoke louder.

18 (5) He proved his mettle in the Pirates teams,
19 reaching championships in two World Series, includ-
20 ing in 1971 when he was named Most Valuable
21 Player. He was named the 1966 regular season Most
22 Valuable Player. He won 12 Gold Gloves as one of
23 the most effective, hard-throwing, and precise out-
24 fielders in the game. He won four batting titles, had

1 a lifetime .317 batting average and 3,000 hits, and
2 was a 12-time member of the All-Star team.

3 (6) Clemente was an exemplary figure off the
4 baseball field as well. Having received a rare oppor-
5 tunity, he made sure that he could be of service to
6 others.

7 (7) During his rookie season, Clemente also
8 served as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve,
9 fulfilling his commitment to the Nation.

10 (8) Once he reached stardom, he would spend
11 the off-season actively supporting community efforts
12 in Puerto Rico and in neighboring countries in the
13 Caribbean region, using sports as a vehicle to moti-
14 vate the progress of communities and specially to
15 provide opportunities for social development for dis-
16 advantaged families. One of his desires was the
17 founding of a center for developing underprivileged
18 youth through sport and education.

19 (9) A man of strong family values, Clemente in
20 1964 married Vera Cristina Zabala, with whom he
21 started a family that grew with the birth of his sons
22 Roberto Jr. in 1965, Luis in 1966, and Enrique in
23 1969. Upon winning the 1971 World Series MVP,
24 he showed that strong bond and his faith when in

1 his interview he sent a blessing to his children and
2 asked for one from his parents.

3 (10) After the December 23, 1972, earthquake
4 in Managua, Nicaragua, having earlier that year
5 worked in that country with an international tour-
6 nament, Roberto Clemente was a leader in efforts to
7 obtain relief supplies for the victims and mobilize
8 aid.

9 (11) Concerned over reports that this help may
10 not reach those who needed it but was instead being
11 diverted or misused, on December 31, 1972, he
12 boarded an aid flight, so that he could participate
13 directly in delivering it.

14 (12) That flight, tragically, suffered a mechan-
15 ical failure during takeoff climb and crashed into the
16 sea just off the coast, with all on board perishing.
17 The loss of Roberto Clemente was traumatic across
18 the Puerto Rican and general Latino community and
19 the sports world.

20 (13) The accolades received by Clemente are
21 many, and to this day he continues to accumulate
22 recognition on his home soil and away from it, not
23 only as a sports superstar with lasting fame in that
24 endeavor, but as an example of commitment to hu-
25 manity in its times of need, even to the ultimate

1 consequences. The Baseball Writers Association al-
2 most immediately waived the waiting period require-
3 ment and named Roberto Clemente Walker to the
4 Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973. The Major League
5 Baseball Roberto Clemente Award is given every
6 year to the player who best exemplifies the game of
7 baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement,
8 and the individual's contribution to his team. The
9 Puerto Rico Winter League is now named the Ro-
10 berto Clemente Professional Baseball League.

11 (14) Roberto Clemente Walker is a hero for
12 whom respect and love is shared by all segments of
13 Puerto Rican communities in the Island and across
14 the Nation and the world.

15 **SEC. 2. STATUE HONORING ROBERTO CLEMENTE WALKER.**

16 (a) OBTAINING OF STATUE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, in consulta-
19 tion with the Committee on House Administration of
20 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
21 Rules and Administration of the Senate, and under
22 such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee
23 on the Library considers appropriate consistent with
24 applicable law, the Joint Committee shall enter into

1 an agreement to obtain a statue honoring humani-
2 tarian and star athlete Roberto Clemente Walker.

3 (2) CONSIDERATION OF ARTISTS OF VARIETY
4 OF BACKGROUNDS.—In selecting an artist for the
5 statue under paragraph (1), the Joint Committee
6 shall consider artists from a variety of backgrounds,
7 including artists from the Puerto Rican community
8 and underrepresented demographic groups, and shall
9 make public announcements targeting such artists.

10 (3) DONATION.—The Joint Committee may ob-
11 tain the statue under paragraph (1) by donation,
12 subject to the laws and rules governing the accept-
13 ance of donated works of art.

14 (b) INSTALLATION.—The Architect of the Capitol,
15 under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library,
16 shall permanently install the statue obtained under sub-
17 section (a) in an appropriate location in the United States
18 Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds, as described in section
19 5102 of title 40, United States Code.

20 (c) AUTHORIZING FUNDING WITH AMOUNTS IN CAP-
21 ITOL PRESERVATION FUND.—

22 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding section
23 803 of the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988
24 (2 U.S.C. 2083), the United States Capitol Preser-
25 vation Commission established under section 801 of

1 such Act (2 U.S.C. 2081) may transfer amounts in
2 the Capitol Preservation Fund established under sec-
3 tion 803 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 2083) to the Joint
4 Committee on the Library and the Architect of the
5 Capitol for purposes of obtaining and installing the
6 statue under this Act.

7 (2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT TRANSFERRED.—
8 The amount transferred under paragraph (1) may
9 not exceed \$500,000.

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