

He attended the University of California, where he won acclaim in basketball, football, baseball, and track and field. Jackie's collegiate experience was cut short in 1941 because of financial hardship. Jackie was forced to leave the university. To support his family, Jackie enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was subsequently commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1943.

In 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers signed Jackie up as a player. He became the first African-American to play major league baseball. During the early years, his debut into professional baseball was anything but easy. Jackie was forced to face facial discrimination, hatred and bigotry from white major league baseball players and fans on an almost daily basis. Yet, despite this hostile environment, Jackie achieved fame as one of the greatest baseball players.

Before his retirement in 1956, Jackie had compiled a career batting average of .311 and had played for six pennant winners and one world championship team in Brooklyn. He was named Rookie of the Year in 1947 and Most Valuable Player in the National League in 1949, the year he led the league in stolen bases. Although Jackie played many positions, he was primarily a second baseman.

Jackie's lifetime accomplishments go well beyond the limits of a baseball diamond. He was a noted civil rights leader, devoted family

man and shrewd businessman and banker. Harlem was his adopted home.

Today is indeed a special occasion, for it marks the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's debut into the professional baseball league. Jackie has been a positive role model for so many aspiring youth. We have only to look at the recent accomplishments of Tiger Woods.

Please join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's debut into professional baseball.

HONORING OUR SIBLINGS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 21, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the establishment of "Siblings Day," a day to honor our sisters and brothers for the many ways in which they have enriched our lives. This celebration would give us the opportunity to show our appreciation for our siblings, much the same way that Mother's Day and Father's Day are celebrated.

Siblings make an important contribution to who we are. Often, when our parents are

gone, our siblings are our only remaining family. And sometimes, as in the case of one of my constituents, Siblings Day will help us remember siblings who we have lost at an early age.

My constituent, Claudia Evert, has been working to promote April 10 as Siblings Day. This day would mark the birthday of Claudia's sister Lisette, who died tragically in 1972 at age 19 in a car accident that also killed their father. An additional tragedy struck in 1987, when Ms. Evert's older brother, Alan, died in an accident at his home. He was 36 years old.

Ms. Evert has been lobbying for the past year to create a State and national siblings day holiday to be celebrated on April 10, her sister's birthday. She is working with the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, Students Against Drunk Driving, and the Estonian House, a Manhattan-based organization that celebrates Estonian heritage.

Siblings are often our first roommate or our first friend. I call on the Congress to recognize the importance of family members by recognizing the contributions made by our siblings. I applaud the work of Claudia Evert, who has created a loving tribute to her deceased siblings by her work to establish Siblings Day. Her inspired work should serve as a lesson to us all.