

Ken Griffey Jr. was the first contemporary player to push for the movement, to ask commissioner Bud Selig for permission to honor Robinson by wearing No. 42. Griffey, who donned six different jerseys in the Reds' game against the Cubs, told reporters, "I think a lot of people wouldn't be in this locker room if it wasn't for what he did."

More than 200 players and managers joined the tribute, and there was No. 42 on the back of every Dodger last night, and on the Cardinals' Albert Pujols as he tipped his cap, Robinson-style, while crossing the plate after belting a home run, and on Arizona's Tony Clark as he swatted two of his own, and on Cleveland's C.C. Sabathia as he struck out 10 White Sox and then talked about how he wanted to make sure he represented Robinson's legacy with grace and class.

There was Dontrelle Willis, an All-Star, a 20-game winner, saying wearing No. 42 was "the highest honor I've ever received in my life." There was Chris Young, Padre starter and Princeton graduate, recalling how he wrote his senior thesis on Robinson while sitting in the back of the bus as his Class A team, the Hickory Crawdads, traveled the South Atlantic League roads.

Young took America's pulse by analyzing newspaper reports, both before Robinson broke the color barrier and after. "I observed there was significant improvement in the attitude of the media toward African-Americans. Not from negative to positive so much as negative to neutral," Young told ESPN The Magazine. "I excluded sports, but prior to Robinson breaking the color line, you'd see reporters frequently using expressions like 'a Negro hoodlum' in their stories. I noticed coverage that was much more neutral after the integration of baseball."

And there was the Twins' Torii Hunter, pulling his black socks high and dropping into a curling slide as he safely nailed home on the same day his op-ed piece appeared in the Pioneer Press. "You don't have to be African-American to know what (Robinson) went through. You've just got to be a smart person or a person who knows what pain is like," Hunter wrote. "For the past 10 years, I've been called the N-word, like, 20 times. Not in Minnesota. In Kansas City. In Boston."

Clearly we haven't yet demolished the racial barrier, or wiped out negative language. Sixty years after Robinson authored the most seminal moment in American sports history, Hunter is still called the N-word, and the Rutgers women's basketball team gets bombarded with hateful E-mails simply because it had the misfortune of being caught in the maelstrom created by Don Imus' nasty mouth.

In August 1945, in a conversation now cemented in American lore, Dodger president Branch Rickey told Robinson, "I know you're a good ballplayer. What I don't know is whether you have the guts."

"Mr. Rickey," Robinson asked, "are you looking for a Negro who is afraid to fight back?"

"Robinson, I'm looking for a ballplayer with enough guts not to fight back," Rickey said, and thus an unspoken pact was sealed.

Robinson altered the complexion of our pastime and forced Americans to understand blacks could be equal with whites. How shocking, how depressing, that 60 years later, not everyone seems to get it.

"The course of history probably would have changed had he quit because he was the smartest of the Negro League players," Hunter wrote. "This was a guy who went to UCLA and played four sports in college. He had an education. If he had quit—the guy who was supposed to be the strongest of the Negro League and the smartest of the Negro

League—why go get the others? They wouldn't be able to handle it if he couldn't handle it."

They took No. 42 out of retirement and put it on their backs yesterday, black and white and Latino and Asian players proudly wearing the digits. In clubhouses and stadium seats all across the land, stories were repeated about how Pee Wee Reese, a white shortstop from Louisville, once draped an arm over Robinson's shoulder in a silent show of support. It ought to be Jackie Robinson Day every day.

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#### HONORING CHERIF BASSIOUNI

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#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Cherif Bassiouni. Professor Bassiouni is retiring from his position as President of the International Human Rights Law Institute and Distinguished Research Professor of Law at DePaul University after 43 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his legendary career, Professor Bassiouni has been a champion of the poor and voiceless worldwide. His creation of the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University is just one of his many lasting contributions to human rights and international law.

For 30 years, Professor Bassiouni has been an important leader within the United Nations, holding such positions as Chairman of the Security Council's Commission to Investigate War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia and the Independent Expert on Human Rights in Afghanistan for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Often considered the father of the International Criminal Court, Professor Bassiouni was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee during the 1998 United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. As a testament to his lifelong dedication to international criminal justice, he was nominated for a Noble Peace Prize in 1999.

For his global efforts, Professor Bassiouni has received medals from his native Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States. He has also received numerous academic and civic awards, including the Special Award of the Council of Europe; the Defender of Democracy Award, Parliamentarians for Global Action; and the Adlai Stevenson Award of the United Nations Association.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cherif Bassiouni on his long and noteworthy career, and thank him for his contributions to the international community and to the people of Chicago. DePaul University is certainly going to miss him, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

#### IN MEMORY OF LORAN JOHNSON

#### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. ROSS. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Loran Johnson of Warren, Arkansas, who passed away April 6, 2007.

Mr. Johnson was committed to making the state of Arkansas a better place to live through his hard work and dedication to his community. He is noted as the founder of the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival because of its start in 1956 while he was manager of the Warren Chamber of Commerce. He also spent his time promoting Southeast Arkansas with the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District and the Bradley County Industrial Development Commission.

Mr. Johnson served in the Navy during World War II and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) upon returning. He then taught in Swift and Warren where he also sponsored the Future Farmers of America (FFA). Because of his work with the FFA students there is now a Loran Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund at UAM for early childhood education majors.

Mr. Johnson was a devoted family man and a model civic leader. He was a member of the Arkansas Cattleman's Association, the Bradley County Retired Teacher's Association, the American Legion and he served as a delegate to the Arkansas Silver-Haired Legislature. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Warren where he served as the program chairman for the Brotherhood Men's Group.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Madge Bryant Johnson; his children Wayne Johnson of Warren, LoraNelle Humphrey of Stuttgart and Camille Johnson Lide of Little Rock; and his grandsons, nieces and nephews. Mr. Johnson will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

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#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO TYLER FULLER

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tyler Fuller, a 7-year-old international BMX champion.

Tyler, a two-time Union Cycliste Internationale BMX champion, learned to ride a bike at the age of 2 and began BMX racing at the age of 3. When he was 5 years old, Tyler joined the Redman Yamaha Factory Team and has been racing for them since that time. Tyler has competed in events around the world and his natural ability and dedication to the sport have earned him recognition as one of the top four BMX racers in his age group.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Tyler Fuller. His talent, drive, and passion are commendable and will serve him well. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.