

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 228

Recognizing the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2003

Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to baseball and the Nation.

Whereas even though African-Americans were excluded from playing in the major leagues of baseball with their Caucasian counterparts, the desire of some African-Americans to play baseball could not be repressed;

Whereas Major League Baseball was not fully integrated until July 1959;

Whereas African-Americans began organizing their own professional baseball teams in 1885;

Whereas 6 separate baseball leagues, known collectively as the Negro Baseball Leagues, were organized by African-Americans between 1920 and 1960;

Whereas the Negro Baseball Leagues included exceptionally talented players;

Whereas Jackie Robinson, whose career began in the Negro Baseball Leagues, was named Rookie of the Year in 1947 and subsequently led the Brooklyn Dodgers to 6 National League pennants and a World Series championship;

Whereas by achieving success on the baseball field, African-American baseball players helped break down color barriers and integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the United States;

Whereas during World War II, more than 50 Negro Baseball League players served in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas during an era of sexism and gender barriers, 3 women played in the Negro Baseball Leagues;

Whereas the Negro Baseball Leagues helped teach the people of the United States that what matters most is not the color of a person's skin, but the content of that person's character and the measure of that person's skills and abilities;

Whereas only in recent years has the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues begun receiving the recognition that it deserves;

Whereas in 1997 Major League Baseball created a pension plan for former players of the Negro Baseball Leagues who went on to play in Major League Baseball; and

Whereas baseball is the national pastime and reflects the history of the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1           (1) recognizes the teams and players of the  
2       Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements,  
3       dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to both  
4       baseball and our Nation; and

5           (2) encourages Major League Baseball to reach  
6       a fair compensation agreement with former players  
7       of the Negro Baseball Leagues who were excluded  
8       under Major League Baseball's 1997 pension plan.

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