

By Representatives Lawson, Lynn, Constantine and Morse

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House Resolution

A resolution honoring Jackie Robinson on the 50th Anniversary of becoming the first African-American to play Major League Baseball.

WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, just 30 miles from Tallahassee in Cairo, Georgia, the grandson of a slave and the son of a sharecropper, and

WHEREAS, just 28 years later, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African-American to play in a Major League Baseball game in the United States, thus paving the way for the racial integration of all professional sports in this country, and

WHEREAS, on this, the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's historic breaking of the color line in Major League Baseball, it is with great pride and affection that the citizens of the State of Florida remember this heroic figure and his numerous ties to our state, and

WHEREAS, much of Jackie Robinson's initial public exposure came in 1946 while playing as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers' top farm team, the Montreal Royals of the International League, during spring training in the State of Florida, and also in nearby Cuba during the 1947 spring training season, and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 17, 1946, Jackie Robinson captured national media attention by playing in the first racially integrated spring training game in modern professional baseball history when he played for the Montreal Royals before a crowd of 3,000 at City Island Ballpark in Daytona Beach, and

1           WHEREAS, in 1948, the Brooklyn Dodgers opened their  
2 spring training facility, "Dodgertown," in Vero Beach, where  
3 Jackie Robinson played spring training games for the 1948  
4 season, and

5           WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson's debut as the first  
6 African-American to play Major League Baseball on April 15,  
7 1947, signaled not only an historic turn in race relations and  
8 racial equality in this country, but the beginning of a truly  
9 extraordinary baseball career, as Jackie Robinson went on to  
10 lead the National League in stolen bases and be voted Rookie  
11 of the Year in 1947, and

12           WHEREAS, on September 30, 1947, Jackie Robinson became  
13 the first African-American to play in a World Series, and

14           WHEREAS, on July 12, 1949, Jackie Robinson was one of  
15 four African-Americans who were the first to play in a Major  
16 League All-Star Game, and

17           WHEREAS, in 1949, Jackie Robinson became the first  
18 African-American to win Major League Baseball's Most Valuable  
19 Player Award, and

20           WHEREAS, in 1962, Jackie Robinson became the first  
21 African-American elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, and

22           WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate that the  
23 citizens of the State of Florida and the Members of the  
24 Florida House of Representatives honor Jackie Robinson on  
25 this, the 50th anniversary of his Major League Baseball debut,  
26 NOW, THEREFORE,

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28 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
29 Florida:

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1           That the House of Representatives of the State of  
2 Florida hereby honors the memory of Jackie Robinson on the  
3 50th anniversary of his historic debut as the first  
4 African-American to play Major League Baseball in the United  
5 States.  
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