

By Senator Miller

18-739A-06

Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring the memory of the legendary Alfonso Ramon Lopez, affectionately known as "El Senor," recognizing April 20 as "Al Lopez Day," and dedicating the 2006 Spring Training Season in Florida to his memory.

WHEREAS, Al Lopez was born in 1908 in Ybor City, now a historic district within the City of Tampa, and began his baseball career with the Tampa Smokers in 1924, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez broke into the major leagues in 1928 and held the record at 1,918 for the number of games caught until 1987, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez became manager of the Cleveland Indians in 1951, winning an American League record of 111 games in 1954, a record not broken until 1998 by the New York Yankees, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez moved on to manage the Chicago "Go-Go" White Sox in 1957, never having a losing season, winning the American League Pennant in 1959 and finishing second place five times, and never posting fewer than 82 victories, with his 1954 and 1959 teams being the only non-Yankee clubs to win the American League Pennant between 1949 and 1964, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez briefly managed additional games for the White Sox, retiring in 1969 with 1,410 wins, ranking 11th on his retirement and, with the 840 wins with the White Sox, ranking second in franchise history, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as a manager in 1977, and the Al Lopez Park in the

1 City of Tampa was named in his honor and a statue of his
2 likeness was erected, and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez died in Tampa on October 30, 2005,
4 at the age of 97, four days after the White Sox won the World
5 Series for the first time in 88 years in their first
6 pennant-winning season since Mr. Lopez led the 1959 team, and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez was the oldest member of the
8 Baseball Hall of Fame and the last living major leaguer to
9 play in the 1920s, and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez was and remains Tampa's foremost
11 baseball ambassador, and it is appropriate to pay tribute to
12 the life of this extraordinary individual, NOW, THEREFORE,

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14 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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16 That the Senate warmly welcomes members of the Lopez
17 Family to the Senate as it recognizes April 20, 2006, as "Al
18 Lopez Day" in the State of Florida and dedicates the 2006
19 Spring Training Season in Florida to his memory.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution,
21 with the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the
22 family of Al Lopez as a tangible token of the sentiments of
23 the Florida Senate, and that an additional copy, with the Seal
24 of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Baseball Hall of
25 Fame in Cooperstown, New York, for display or other use as it
26 may find appropriate.

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