

HR 9077

2006

## House Resolution

1  
2 A resolution honoring the memory of the legendary Al Lopez  
3 and designating April 20, 2006, as "Al Lopez Day" in  
4 Florida.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Alfonso Ramon Lopez, also known as Al Lopez or El  
7 Senor, was born in 1908 in Ybor City, now a historic district  
8 within the City of Tampa, began his baseball career with the  
9 Tampa Smokers in 1924, and broke into the major leagues in 1928  
10 to amass a total of 1,918 games caught, a record he held until  
11 1987, and

12 WHEREAS, after becoming manager of the Cleveland Indians in  
13 1951 and winning 111 games in 1954 for an American League record  
14 that would stand until broken in 1998 by the New York Yankees,  
15 Mr. Lopez moved on in 1957 to manage the Chicago "Go-Go" White  
16 Sox who, under his leadership, never had a losing season, won  
17 the American League pennant in 1959, finished in second place  
18 five times, and never posted fewer than 82 victories, and

19 WHEREAS, the 1954 Indians and 1959 White Sox teams managed  
20 by Mr. Lopez were the only non-Yankee clubs to win the American  
21 League pennant between 1949 and 1964, and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez briefly managed additional games for the  
23 White Sox before retiring in 1969 with 1,410 total wins, ranking  
24 11th overall at the time and, with the 840 wins with the White  
25 Sox, still ranking 2nd in franchise history, and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez was inducted into the Baseball Hall of  
27 Fame as a manager in 1977 and was both its longest-living member  
28 and the last living major leaguer to play in the 1920's, and

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

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Lopez was and remains Tampa's foremost  
34 baseball ambassador, a fact partially attested to by the statue  
35 of him erected by the city in what is now known as Al Lopez Park  
36 and more recently manifested by his having had Spring Training  
37 2006 in Florida dedicated to his memory, NOW, THEREFORE,

38  
39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
40 Florida:

41  
42 That the House of Representatives warmly welcomes members  
43 of the Lopez Family as it designates April 20, 2006, as "Al  
44 Lopez Day" in the State of Florida.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
46 presented to the family of Al Lopez as a tangible token of the  
47 sentiments expressed herein.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
49 presented to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York,  
50 for display or other use as it may find appropriate.