A RESOLUTION

Honoring the baseball life of Danny Murtaugh and supporting his 2020 election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, A native of Chester, Pennsylvania, Danny Murtaugh had his Major League Baseball start with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1941 and led the league in stolen bases despite joining the team mid-season; and

WHEREAS, Like many of his day, Mr. Murtaugh's playing career was interrupted by war, being offered the chance to play for the United States Army baseball team in a morale-boosting role, however, he turned down the opportunity and instead joined the combat infantry spending time fighting in Europe before helping with rebuilding efforts in Japan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh made his way to Pittsburgh in 1948, where he provided a spark to a team that had been struggling; and

WHEREAS, As second baseman, Mr. Murtaugh and his partner at shortstop led the league in double plays that year; and
WHEREAS, Physical ailments from Mr. Murtaugh's war service cut his playing years short and he transitioned to managing; and
WHEREAS, With the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mr. Murtaugh had 1,115 managerial wins, which is second on the franchise's all-time list, and most notably he won two World Series championships with the Pirates as distinct underdogs; and
WHEREAS, In 1960, the Pirates shocked the New York Yankees in seven games with a dramatic series-ending home run by Bill Mazeroski; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh led the Pirates to victory again in 1971 against the widely favored Baltimore Orioles; and
WHEREAS, Interestingly, both Casey Stengel and Earl Weaver, the managers Mr. Murtaugh defeated in his World Series appearances, are members of the Baseball Hall of Fame; and
WHEREAS, On September 1, 1971, Mr. Murtaugh broke barriers when he fielded an all-minority starting lineup for the first time in Major League Baseball history with starters, including future Hall of Famers Roberto Clemente and Willie Stargell; and
WHEREAS, When asked about his all-minority lineup, Mr. Murtaugh remarked, "When it comes to making out the lineup, I'm colorblind, and my athletes know it"; and
WHEREAS, From Mr. Murtaugh's winning percentage, World Series victories and league pennants, he fully deserves the crowning achievement of becoming a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame and his statistics are equal to or better than many managers currently in the Baseball Hall of Fame; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh achieved his success in four separate stints over 20 years after being forced to retire for health reasons, yet he could not stay away from baseball, always returning to the Pittsburgh Pirates; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh died on December 2, 1976, at 59 years of age, just two months after his final retirement; and
WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh Pirates retired Mr. Murtaugh's number 40 on Opening Day in April 1977; and
WHEREAS, This year is the 60th anniversary of the 1960 World Series and the Baseball Hall of Fame's Golden Days Era committee is considering candidates who made their mark on the game from 1950 to 1969; and
WHEREAS, If elected, Mr. Murtaugh would be inducted into the Hall of Fame as Pirates' fans celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1971 World Series; and
WHEREAS, With Mr. Murtaugh's career stretching from Philly to Pittsburgh, his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame would be a great occasion for all Pennsylvanians; therefore be it RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the baseball life of Danny Murtaugh and support his 2020 election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.