A RESOLUTION

Urging Major League Baseball to retire uniform number 21 in honor of the lifetime achievements of the late Roberto Clemente.

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente Walker was born on August 18, 1934, in Carolina, Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, From 1955 through 1972, Mr. Clemente played 18 seasons in Major League Baseball (MLB) as a right fielder and right-handed batter with the Pittsburgh Pirates, wearing uniform number 21; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente's vast accomplishments as an MLB player include collecting 3,000 hits, attaining a .317 lifetime batting average and winning four National League batting titles and 12 consecutive National League Gold Glove Awards; and

WHEREAS, With these and other career highlights, Mr. Clemente has earned recognition as one of the all-time greatest defensive right fielders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente, a mainstay of his era, earned further
recognition for his talents as a National League All-Star, appearing in 15 games over 12 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente was named the National League Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 1966 and the World Series MVP in 1971 after leading the Pittsburgh Pirates in seven games to become World Series Champions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente achieved this lasting record while encountering social injustice and racial and cultural prejudice for being a dark-skinned, Spanish-speaking player from Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Although initially frustrated, Mr. Clemente faced these challenges with composure, dignity, pride and enduring empathy for persons who were less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, During the baseball off-season, Mr. Clemente spent much of his time involved in charity and humanitarian work in Caribbean and Latin American countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente generously contributed his energies to persons who were underprivileged or in need by giving aid, food and baseball equipment, often delivering these items himself; and

WHEREAS, When a massive earthquake struck Nicaragua in December 1972, Mr. Clemente led relief efforts, arranging for the collection and transportation of aid to victims of the disaster; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente died in a plane crash on December 31, 1972, while en route to Nicaragua to ensure that emergency aid and supplies reached their intended destination; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after Mr. Clemente's death, the Baseball Writers' Association of America amended candidate eligibility rules for induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame to provide
immediate consideration for a player who dies while still active or before the five-year waiting period ends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente was posthumously elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame during a special election in March 1973, attaining distinction as the first Latin American and Caribbean player to receive this honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente was posthumously awarded the Roberto Clemente Walker Congressional Gold Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner's Award, presented annually to a player with outstanding skills who is personally involved in community work, was renamed the Roberto Clemente Award in 1973; and

WHEREAS, MLB announced in 2002 that all teams would observe Roberto Clemente Day each year on September 18; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente's fans have affectionately called him "The Great One" for his legacy on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh Pirates retired uniform number 21 in honor of Mr. Clemente on April 6, 1973; and

WHEREAS, A nationwide campaign is under way for all MLB teams to retire Mr. Clemente's uniform number 21; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge Major League Baseball to retire uniform number 21 in honor of the lifetime achievements of the late Roberto Clemente; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, Robert D. Manfred, Jr., Commissioner, 245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10167.