

## A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente, a mainstay of his era, earned further  
18 recognition for his talents as a National League All-Star,

1 appearing in 15 games over 12 seasons; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Clemente died in a plane crash on December 31,  
25 1972, while en route to Nicaragua to ensure that emergency aid  
26 and supplies reached their intended destination; and

27 WHEREAS, Shortly after Mr. Clemente's death, the Baseball  
28 Writers' Association of America amended candidate eligibility  
29 rules for induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame to provide  
30 immediate consideration for a player who dies while still active

1 or before the five-year waiting period ends; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
26 The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, Robert D. Manfred,  
27 Jr., Commissioner, 245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY  
28 10167.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

<b>Referred to Committee on</b>	
Date _____	20____
Reported _____	20____
<b>As Committed-Amended</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	
_____	
By Hon. _____	