
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 132 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, CALTAGIRONE, A. DAVIS, READSHAW, KINSEY,
HILL-EVANS, HARKINS, MILLARD, MURT, LONGIETTI AND MARKOSEK,
MARCH 8, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
MARCH 8, 2019

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

1 recognition for his talents as a National League All-Star,
2 appearing in 15 games over 12 seasons; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Shortly after Mr. Clemente's death, the Baseball
29 Writers' Association of America amended candidate eligibility
30 rules for induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame to provide

1 immediate consideration for a player who dies while still active
2 or before the five-year waiting period ends; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
27 The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball, Robert D. Manfred,
28 Jr., Commissioner, 245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor, New York, NY
29 10167.