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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 81 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, ZABEL, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, STAATS,  
HOWARD, GALLOWAY, LONGIETTI, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, STAMBAUGH,  
McNEILL, VITALI, JOZWIAK, ROTHMAN, KIRKLAND, NEILSON, MERSKI,  
MENTZER, SCHWEYER, DELLOSO, WARREN AND SAINATO,  
MARCH 18, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 18, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Richard (Dick) Anthony Allen and expressing  
2 condolences.

3 WHEREAS, Richard (Dick) Anthony Allen was the Philadelphia  
4 Phillies' first African-American superstar; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen died on December 7, 2020, at 78 years of  
6 age; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was born in the small Pennsylvanian town  
8 of Wampum on March 8, 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen and his eight siblings were raised by  
10 their mother, Era, who supported them by working as a domestic;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was an outstanding athlete at Wampum High  
13 School and played on the basketball and the baseball teams; and

14 WHEREAS, Philadelphia Phillies' scout John Ogden recognized  
15 Mr. Allen's skills on the baseball field and signed him upon  
16 graduation from high school for an estimated \$70,000; and

1       WHEREAS, The first thing Mr. Allen bought was a new house for  
2 his hardworking mother; and

3       WHEREAS, The Phillies had not integrated their team until  
4 1957 and had a poor history of race relations; and

5       WHEREAS, Mr. Allen persevered through racial taunts from  
6 baseball crowds and threatening notes left on his car after  
7 games; and

8       WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was the only Phillie player to start all  
9 162 games, finishing the 1964 season with a .318 average, 29  
10 home runs, 91 runs-batted-in and an award for National League  
11 Rookie of the Year; and

12       WHEREAS, The 1966 season set Mr. Allen's status as a bona  
13 fide baseball superstar as he hit .317, had 40 home runs, 110  
14 runs-batted-in and played 141 games; and

15       WHEREAS, Despite being a skilled athlete, Mr. Allen was  
16 forced to wear a batting helmet for protection from projectiles  
17 being thrown at him; and

18       WHEREAS, Even while leading the Phillies in nearly every  
19 offensive category, Mr. Allen was still booed at every game; and

20       WHEREAS, Following several disagreements with team  
21 leadership, Mr. Allen was eventually traded to the St. Louis  
22 Cardinals in 1970; and

23       WHEREAS, After years of facing taunts from fans in  
24 Philadelphia, Mr. Allen was voted the starting National League  
25 first baseman by fans for the 1970 All-Star Game; and

26       WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was traded to the Dodgers and was a large  
27 part of the team's on-field success in 1971; and

28       WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was traded for the third time in three  
29 years to the Chicago White Sox and soon became the most talented  
30 player on the team; and

1       WHEREAS, In 1975, Mr. Allen was traded back to the  
2 Philadelphia Phillies and was met by standing ovations at his  
3 first game in the city since 1969; and

4       WHEREAS, Mr. Allen retired from baseball at 35 years of age  
5 with a .292 average, 351 home runs and 1,119 runs-batted-in; and

6       WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Allen was a phenomenal  
7 player who overcame obstacles and endured harsh realities  
8 because of his race; therefore be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of  
10 Richard (Dick) Anthony Allen and express condolences for his  
11 passing; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the family of Richard (Dick) Anthony Allen as a demonstration of  
14 sympathy for their tremendous loss.