

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 7 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY A. WILLIAMS, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO, KEARNEY,
BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER AND COSTA, JANUARY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 20, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Remembering Richard "Dick" Anthony Allen of Wampum, Lawrence
2 County, for his prominence during 15 Major League Baseball
3 seasons in the 1960s and 1970s, with special recognition of
4 his two stints with the Philadelphia Phillies.

5 WHEREAS, A Wampum native, Richard "Dick" Anthony Allen was
6 born on March 8, 1942; and

7 WHEREAS, Making his Major League Baseball debut with the
8 Philadelphia Phillies in 1963, Mr. Allen led the league in 1964
9 in runs (125), triples (13), extra base hits (80) and total
10 bases (352); and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen finished in the top five in batting
12 average (.318), slugging average (.557), hits (201) and doubles
13 (38), leading to his selection as 1964 National League Rookie of
14 the Year; and

15 WHEREAS, A seven-time All-Star, Mr. Allen also earned status
16 as the 1972 American League Most Valuable Player; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen's powerful bat awed Phillies fans of all
18 ages as he hit balls out of the park; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1965, an estimated 529-footer cleared the Coca-

1 Cola sign on the center left outfield roof of Connie Mack
2 Stadium; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen emanated strength and persisted as a power
4 hitter despite racism and abuse from fans, sports media and
5 fellow players on and off the field, as when a teammate
6 intentionally swung a bat at his head during practice, or when
7 obscenities and racial epithets came from the stands; and

8 WHEREAS, Fans witnessed Mr. Allen's courage as others
9 showered fruit, garbage and even flashlight batteries when he
10 took the field; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen adapted to this growing threat by wearing
12 his batting helmet while playing his position in the field to
13 protect against projectiles; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen pursued a high level of play and
15 exemplified integrity while befriending and mentoring other
16 baseball greats, including Philllies' Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Schmidt described Mr. Allen as having been
19 unfairly treated by the sports media:

20 Dick was a sensitive Black man who refused to be treated as a
21 second-class citizen.... Imagine what Dick could've
22 accomplished as a player in another era, on another team,
23 left alone to hone his skills, to be confident, to come to
24 the ballpark every day and just play baseball;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Philllies, in tribute to Mr. Allen's
27 iconic status, retired his jersey number, No. 15, on September
28 3, 2020; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen died from cancer at his home in Wampum on
30 December 7, 2020; and

1 WHEREAS, The Senate honors Mr. Allen's excellence and the
2 progress he made toward the full inclusion of Black players in
3 Major League Baseball; and

4 WHEREAS, The Senate honors the life and career of a truly
5 outstanding Pennsylvanian; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate remember Richard "Dick" Anthony
7 Allen of Wampum, Lawrence County, for his prominence during 15
8 Major League Baseball seasons in the 1960s and 1970s, with
9 special recognition of his two stints with the Philadelphia
10 Phillies.