

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 32 Session of
 2021

INTRODUCED BY A. WILLIAMS, MARTIN, SANTARSIERO, KEARNEY,
BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, COSTA, COMITTA AND HUGHES,
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and career of Richard "Dick" Anthony Allen of
2 Wampum, Lawrence County, offering condolences to his friends
3 and family and recognizing his prominence during 15 Major
4 League Baseball seasons in the 1960s and 1970s, with special
5 recognition of his two stints with the Philadelphia Phillies.

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, In 1965, an estimated 529-footer cleared the Coca-
2 Cola sign on the center left outfield roof of Connie Mack
3 Stadium; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 and

27 WHEREAS, The Philadelphia Phillies, in tribute to Mr. Allen's
28 iconic status, retired his jersey number, No. 15, on September
29 3, 2020; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen also had a love for singing, including a

1 brief musical career in the Philadelphia-based doo-wop group the
2 Ebonistics; and

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

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen is survived by his wife, Willa, and his
6 sons Richard and Eron; and

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

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

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and achievements of
13 Richard "Dick" Anthony Allen of Wampum, Lawrence County, offer
14 condolences to his friends and family and recognize him for his
15 prominence during 15 Major League Baseball seasons in the 1960s
16 and 1970s, with special recognition of his two stints with the
17 Philadelphia Phillies.