

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 63

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LeBLANC (Sponsor), HUGHES, WALTON GRAY, PACE,
SCHIEFFER, SCAVUZZO, BURNETT, McDONALD, HOLSMAN, GRILL, WEBB, MORRIS,
WHITEHEAD, CARTER, QUINN, SKAGGS, HOSKINS (80), NOLTE, HOSKINS (121), McNARY,
LEARA, NASHEED, RUCKER AND JONES (63) (Co-sponsors).

5170L.02I

Whereas, baseball players called him "Skip" because John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil
2 was the captain of the ship that sent more Negro League veterans ashore to the white Majors than
3 any man in baseball history; and
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Whereas, Buck O'Neil played briefly in 1937 with the Memphis Red Sox and
5
6 debuted as a first baseman for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1938. In 1942, O'Neil led the
7 Monarchs to a Negro American League title, hitting .353 during the Negro World Series in the
8 Monarchs four-game sweep of the Homestead Grays; and
9

Whereas, O'Neil's achievements included being named to the East-West All-Star
10
11 Classic in 1942, 1943, and 1949, managing the West squad in 1950, 1953, 1954, and 1955, and
12 playing for the 1946 Satchel Paige All Stars; and
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Whereas, in 1944, O'Neil enlisted for a two-year stint with the United States Navy,
14
15 briefly interrupted his playing career. He returned to the Monarchs in 1946, admitting that he
16 regretted the fact that he was not a member of the Monarchs in 1945 when the great Jackie
17 Robinson played in Kansas City before signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers; and
18

Whereas, in 1948, O'Neil succeeded Frank Duncan as manager of the Kansas City
19
20 Monarchs, continuing to manage the team until 1955. He guided the Monarchs to league titles
21 in 1948, 1950, 1951, and 1953; and
22

23 **Whereas**, in 1956, O'Neil was hired by the Chicago Cubs as a scout, helping the
24 team sign future Hall of Famer Lou Brock, and superstars Oscar Gamble, Lee Smith, and Joe
25 Carter;

26

27 **Whereas**, O'Neil's greatest achievement came in 1962 when he became the first
28 African-American coach in the Major Leagues with the Cubs. After 33 years as a Cubbie, he
29 returned home in 1988 to scout for the Kansas City Royals; and

30

31 **Whereas**, in 1990, O'Neil began raising money for a museum to preserve and
32 celebrate the history of the Negro Leagues. His efforts led to the opening of the Negro League
33 Baseball Museum in Kansas City, serving as Chair of the Board of Directors from 1990 until his
34 death in 2006. O'Neil also served on the Veterans' Committee of the National Baseball Hall of
35 Fame, was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and is a member of the
36 Missouri Sports Hall of Fame; and

37

38 **Whereas**, O'Neil gained national prominence with his compelling descriptions of
39 the Negro Leagues as part of Ken Burns' 1994 PBS documentary on baseball; and

40

41 **Whereas**, on April 2, 2007, the Kansas City Royals honored O'Neil by placing a
42 fan in the Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat in Kauffman Stadium each game who best exemplifies
43 O'Neil's spirit. The seat is a red seat amidst the all-blue seats behind home plate in Section 127,
44 Seat 9, Row C. The first person to sit in "Buck's seat" was Buck O'Neil's brother, Warren; and

45

46 **Whereas**, Buck O'Neil will be remembered as the first African-American coach
47 in Major League Baseball and as one of the finest players in the Negro Leagues. Through his
48 willingness to share his memories of the Negro Leagues, fans everywhere have a greater
49 understanding and deeper appreciation for a significant period in baseball history:

50

51 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
52 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
53 concurring therein, hereby designate November 13, 2010, as "Buck O'Neil Day" in Missouri and
54 recommends to the people of the state that the day be appropriately observed with activities,
55 events, and ceremonies in honor of the first African-American coach in Major League Baseball;
56 and

57

58 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly requests that the Governor
59 issue a proclamation setting apart November 13, 2010, as "Buck O'Neil Day" in Missouri; and
60

61 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
62 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Governor
63 Jay Nixon.

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