

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 34

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE RIGGS.

1183H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

**WHEREAS**, John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil was born in Carrabelle, Florida, in 1911; and

**WHEREAS**, O'Neil was prevented from attending high school as a result of racial segregation; and

**WHEREAS**, O'Neil left Florida in 1934 to play semi-professional exhibition baseball; and

**WHEREAS**, he signed with the Memphis Red Sox, a member of the newly formed Negro American League, in their first year of play in 1937; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1938, O'Neil's contract was sold to the Kansas City Monarchs, where he played until 1955, except for 1943-1945 when he served in the Navy in World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, O'Neil's career batting average was .288 and he had an average over .300 in four seasons; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1946, O'Neil led the Negro American League with a .353 batting average; and

**WHEREAS**, he played in three Negro League All-Star games and in two Negro League World Series; and

**WHEREAS**, O'Neil was named manager of the Kansas City Monarchs in 1948, and also continued to play first base until 1951; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1955, O'Neil became a scout for the Chicago Cubs and is credited with recruiting Hall of Famer Lou Brock; and

30           **WHEREAS**, O'Neil returned to Kansas City as a scout for the Royals in 1988; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, he was named Midwest Scout of the Year in 1998; and

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34           **WHEREAS**, O'Neil's commitment to preserving the history of the Negro Leagues was  
35 unparalleled; and

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37           **WHEREAS**, in 1990, O'Neil led the effort to establish the Negro Leagues Baseball  
38 Museum in Kansas City and served as its honorary board chairman until his death in 2006; and

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40           **WHEREAS**, he was inducted into the Baseball Scouts Hall of Fame in 2002; and

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42           **WHEREAS**, at Kauffman Stadium, the Kansas City Royals have designated Seat 9, Row  
43 C, Section 127 as the "Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat", occupied at every home game by an individual  
44 who best exemplifies O'Neil's spirit; and

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46           **WHEREAS**, in 2006, O'Neil was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of  
47 Freedom by President George W. Bush for his "excellence and determination both on and off the  
48 baseball field"; and

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50           **WHEREAS**, O'Neil was awarded the first annual Beacon of Life Award by Major  
51 League Baseball in 2007:

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53           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
54 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
55 concurring therein, hereby urge the Baseball Hall of Fame to induct John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil  
56 into the Baseball Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to the sport as a player,  
57 manager, scout, and for his work to preserve and promote the history of the sport for future  
58 generations; and

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60           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
61 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the  
62 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Governor,  
63 and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

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