

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHARP (37).

5634H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

---

## AN ACT

Relating to John Donaldson day.

---

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

1           **WHEREAS**, John Donaldson was an American baseball pitcher who played on a  
2 number of barnstorming teams across the Midwest and along the East Coast and later in the  
3 Negro Leagues in a career that spanned parts of three decades; and

4  
5           **WHEREAS**, Donaldson is a native Missourian who was born in Glasgow, Missouri,  
6 on February 20, 1892, and raised there until attending George Smith College in Sedalia,  
7 Missouri; and

8  
9           **WHEREAS**, after one year at George Smith College, Donaldson embarked on his  
10 professional career in 1912 with the Tennessee Rats, a barnstorming combination of baseball  
11 and entertainment; and

12  
13           **WHEREAS**, after one year, he was signed by J.L. Wilkinson for his All Nations team  
14 from 1913 to 1917. He averaged almost twenty strikeouts per game and once pitched three  
15 consecutive no hitters in 1913; and

16  
17           **WHEREAS**, in 1916, Donaldson also pitched the All Nations team to series victories  
18 over the two top black teams, Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants and C.I. Taylor's  
19 Indianapolis ABCs. At the time, he was considered the best pitcher in black baseball; and

20  
21           **WHEREAS**, in 1917, he was inducted into military service and served a tour of duty  
22 in France with the U.S. Army's 365th Infantry during World War I; and

23

24           **WHEREAS**, upon his return from military service, Donaldson continued to play for  
25 two top black eastern teams, the New York Lincoln Giants and the Brooklyn Royal Giants;  
26 and

27

28           **WHEREAS**, in 1920, upon the organization of the Negro National League,  
29 Donaldson played for the Kansas City Monarchs during the inaugural season and  
30 continued to play for the team intermittently over the next fifteen years; and

31

32           **WHEREAS**, at the tail end of his career, he formed the John Donaldson All-Stars in  
33 1931, which toured around the country; and

34

35           **WHEREAS**, after his days as a baseball player ended, he worked as a shipping clerk  
36 for the U.S. Post Office and later, upon the color ban being lifted, was the first full-time black  
37 talent scout in the Major Leagues when he worked for the Chicago White Sox; and

38

39           **WHEREAS**, John Donaldson should be recognized for his excellence on the baseball  
40 diamond, his service to this country, and being a trailblazer in this state and across the  
41 country:

42

43           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
44 Representatives of the One Hundred Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the  
45 Senate concurring therein, hereby designate every February twentieth as "John Donaldson  
46 Day" in Missouri and encourage the citizens of this state to participate in appropriate  
47 activities and events to commemorate the life and accomplishments of John Donaldson, one  
48 of the best pitchers to play in the Negro Leagues and a member of the inaugural Kansas City  
49 Monarchs team; and

50

51           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his  
52 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

✓