

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 94

Reps. Scott, Farhat, Tyrone Carter, Wilson, Wegela, Brixie, Andrews, MacDonell, Conlin, Weiss, Koleszar, Puri, Young, Brenda Carter, Neeley, Edwards, Miller, Byrnes, Steckloff, Breen, Hope, Zorn, Hill, Grant, Hoskins, Coffia, Morgan, Paiz, Price, O'Neal, Stone, McKinney, Witwer, Hood, Rheingans, Liberati, Snyder, Mentzer, McFall, Churches, Coleman, Aiyash, Rogers, Arbit, Bezotte, Brabec, Glanville, Haadsma, Morse and Schuette offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare May 2, 2023, as Negro Leagues Baseball  
2 Day in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Even though African-Americans were excluded from  
4 playing in the Major Leagues of their time with their white  
5 counterparts, the desire of many African-Americans to play baseball

1 could not be repressed; and

2       Whereas, Major League Baseball did not fully integrate its  
3 leagues until July 1959; and

4       Whereas, African-Americans began organizing their own  
5 professional baseball teams in 1885; and

6       Whereas, The skills and abilities of Negro League players  
7 eventually made Major League Baseball realize the need to integrate  
8 the sport; and

9       Whereas, Seven separate baseball leagues, known collectively  
10 as the "Negro Baseball Leagues", were organized by African-  
11 Americans between 1920 and 1960; and

12       Whereas, The Negro Baseball Leagues included exceptionally  
13 talented players who played the game at its highest level; and

14       Whereas, On May 2, 1920, the Negro National League, the first  
15 successful Negro League, played its first game; and

16       Whereas, Andrew "Rube" Foster founded the Negro National  
17 League on February 13, 1920, at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City,  
18 Missouri, and also managed and played for the Chicago American  
19 Giants, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

20       Whereas, Leroy "Satchel" Paige, who began his long career in  
21 the Negro Leagues and did not make his Major League debut until the  
22 age of 42, is considered one of the greatest pitchers the game has  
23 ever seen. During his long career, Paige thrilled millions of  
24 baseball fans with his skill and legendary showboating. His  
25 exemplary tenure began with winning his first big league victory in  
26 his first game on July 15, 1948. This momentous moment helped the  
27 Cleveland Indians on the road to winning the pennant the same year.  
28 He was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

29       Whereas, Josh Gibson, who was the greatest slugger of the

1 Negro Leagues, tragically died months before the integration of  
2 baseball, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame;  
3 and

4         Whereas, Jackie Robinson, whose career began with the Negro  
5 League Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African-American to  
6 play in the Major Leagues in April 1947, was named Major League  
7 Baseball Rookie of the Year in 1947, subsequently led the Brooklyn  
8 Dodgers to 6 National League pennants and a World Series  
9 championship, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of  
10 Fame; and

11         Whereas, Larry Doby, whose career began with the Negro League  
12 Newark Eagles, became the first African-American to play in the  
13 American League in July 1947, was an All-Star 7 times in the Major  
14 Leagues and 2-time American league home run leader, and was later  
15 inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

16         Whereas, John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil was a player and manager of  
17 the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African-  
18 American coach in the Major Leagues with the Chicago Cubs in 1962,  
19 served on the Veterans Committee of the National Baseball Hall of  
20 Fame, chaired the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Board of Directors,  
21 and worked tirelessly to promote the history of the Negro Leagues;  
22 and

23         Whereas, James "Cool Papa" Bell played, coached, and managed  
24 in the Negro Leagues from 1922 to 1950, discovered, trained, and  
25 assisted numerous Negro League players into the Major Leagues, and  
26 was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

27         Whereas, Ron 'Schoolboy' Teasley, Detroit's own baseball  
28 legend played on the New York Cubans team after being signed and  
29 then released by the Brooklyn Dodgers. Teasley played alongside

1 Minnie Minoso, the 'Cuban Comet'. Minoso was on the Cubans team  
2 when they won the Negro League World Series. He later broke the  
3 color barrier on the Chicago White Sox team when he joined them in  
4 1951 and was the first black Latino to play in the Major Leagues.

5       Whereas, The talents of such players as Josh Gibson, James  
6 "Cool Papa" Bell, and Oscar Charleston earned them recognition in  
7 the Baseball Hall of Fame as well as the Sporting News List of  
8 Baseball Greatest Players; and

9       Whereas, Auto Zone Park in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted the  
10 inaugural Civil Rights Game between the defending World Champion  
11 St. Louis Cardinals and the Cleveland Indians in commemoration of  
12 the civil rights movement, on March 31, 2007; and

13       Whereas, Michigan made significant contributions to the Negro  
14 Leagues. The Detroit Stars, founded in 1919 by Tenny Blount and the  
15 father of black baseball Rube Foster, was a prominent charter  
16 member of the league. All but two of the seasons they played were  
17 winning seasons. They produced numerous Hall of Fame inductees,  
18 including Turkey Stearnes and Andy "Lefty" Cooper; and

19       Whereas, Major League Baseball has recognized May 2nd as Negro  
20 Leagues Day throughout the whole league, to preserve the legacy of  
21 Negro League players.

22       Whereas, By achieving success on the baseball field, African-  
23 American baseball players helped break down color barriers and  
24 integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the  
25 United States: now, therefore, be it

26       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
27 this legislative body declare May 2, 2023, as Negro Leagues  
28 Baseball Day in the state of Michigan. We recognize the teams and  
29 players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements,

1 dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to both baseball and our  
2 nation.