

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-31

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2019

To recognize the Hall of Fame career of Frank Robinson and his role in bringing baseball back to Washington, D.C.

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2019, Frank Robinson died at the age of 83 years at his home in Los Angeles, California;

WHEREAS, Frank Robinson was born on August 31, 1935 in Beaumont, Texas, before moving to Oakland, California, where, at McClymonds High School, he was teammates with future Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame member Bill Russell on the basketball court and with future Major League Baseball players Vada Pinson and Curt Flood on the baseball field;

WHEREAS, in 1953, at just 17 years old, Frank Robinson signed to play professional baseball with the Cincinnati Reds for \$3,500;

WHEREAS, in 1956, at 20 years of age, Frank Robinson joined the Cincinnati Reds, going on to tie a rookie record with 38 home runs on his way to being named National League Rookie of the Year;

WHEREAS, after a 20-year career with the Cincinnati Reds, Baltimore Orioles, Los Angeles Dodgers, California Angels, and Cleveland Indians, during which he hit 586 home runs—placing him fourth all-time when he retired—and became the first player to be named Most Valuable Player in both the American and National Leagues, Frank Robinson was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, his first year on the ballot;

WHEREAS, in 1966, while playing for the Baltimore Orioles, Frank Robinson became the only player to hit a home run completely out of Memorial Stadium, during a season in which he led the American League with 49 home runs, 122 runs batted in, and a .316 batting average and won the Triple Crown—an achievement only 2 players have reached since;

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

WHEREAS, in 1975, while playing for the Cleveland Indians, Frank Robinson was named the team's player-manager, becoming the first African-American manager in Major League Baseball history, and in his first game as player-manager, he hit a pinch-hit home run;

WHEREAS, Frank Robinson would go on to also manage the San Francisco Giants, Baltimore Orioles, Montreal Expos, and Washington Nationals, amassing 1,065 wins as a manager and being named American League Manager of the Year in 1989;

WHEREAS, during the Washington Nationals' inaugural season of 2005, Frank Robinson managed the team to an improbable season, during which the Nationals led the National League East by 4.5 games at the All-Star break, drawing 2.7 million fans to Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium and reminding Washingtonians, after 33 years without a Major League Baseball team, that the District of Columbia is, in fact, a baseball town.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Frank Robinson Memorial Recognition Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia honors Frank Robinson as a trailblazer, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, and a key part of baseball history in Washington, D.C.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.