

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 070808)

RESOLUTION

Urging Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig to retire Roberto Clemente's uniform #21 from Major League Baseball.

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente is considered by many to be the greatest right fielder to ever play the game of baseball; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955 to 1972 he won four National League batting titles, twelve Golden Glove Awards, and was named the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente led the Pittsburgh Pirates to a seven game World Series victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles in 1971 where he received the World Series MVP Award; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente became the first Latin American player to be inducted into the Major Leagues Baseball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, His passion for baseball could only be matched by his unrelenting commitment to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, Clemente was also well known for his fierce ethnic pride and for his unusual capacity to bear a much larger identity—not just for Puerto Rico but for all of Latin America. It was a responsibility he embraced and carried with dignity and admirable grace; and

WHEREAS, He was uncommonly devoted to creating positive change in the world, a conviction he carried until he made the ultimate sacrifice, giving up his life in an airplane crash while attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, His legacy goes beyond that of a great player, it exemplifies the ultimate sacrifice that great humanitarian's give for their beliefs, his life to help others; and

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WHEREAS, A documentary film on the life and meaning of Roberto Clemente premiered at the Council of Spanish Speaking Organizations on Friday, September 21, 2007 in honor of Puerto Rican Heritage Week; and

WHEREAS, In sports, we honor an athlete's legacy by retiring their number; and

WHEREAS, Because of his remarkable accomplishments both on and off the field Roberto Clemente is truly deserving of this honor; now therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby urge Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig to retire Roberto Clemente's #21 from Major League Baseball.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-seventh of September, 2007.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Ramos

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Ramos, Goode, Greenlee, Savage, Rizzo, Tasco, DiCicco, Blackwell, Reynolds Brown, Miller and Krajewski