

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 197

Introduced by Assembly Members Gatto and Holden

June 16, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 197—Relative to the Jackie Robinson Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 197, as introduced, Gatto. Jackie Robinson Memorial Highway

This measure would designate a specified portion of Interstate 210 from California State Route 2 to Orange Grove Boulevard in the County of Los Angeles as the Jackie Robinson Memorial Highway. The measure also would request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Jack Roosevelt “Jackie” Robinson was born on
2 January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, to a family of sharecroppers.
3 Jackie Robinson and his four brothers were raised by a single
4 mother who in 1920 managed to move the family to Pasadena,
5 California, and they became the first and only black family on
6 their block; and
7 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson was a natural athlete and
8 succeeded at John Muir High School and attended Pasadena City
9 College where he continued his athletic career by succeeding in
10 basketball, football, baseball, and track in 1938 when he was named
11 the region’s Most Valuable Player; and

1 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson transferred to the University of
2 California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1939 where he became the
3 first Bruin to letter in four sports: baseball, basketball, football,
4 and track; and

5 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson served as a second lieutenant in
6 the United States Army from 1942 to 1944 and was arrested and
7 court martialed during boot camp for refusing to move to the back
8 of a bus. He was later acquitted of all charges and received an
9 honorable discharge; and

10 WHEREAS, In early 1945, the Kansas City Monarchs sent him
11 a written offer to play professional baseball in the Negro leagues.
12 In all, Jackie Robinson played 47 games for the Monarchs, hitting
13 .387 with five home runs and registering 13 stolen bases; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1946, Jackie Robinson arrived at Daytona Beach,
15 Florida, for spring training with the all-white Montreal Royals of
16 the Class Triple-A International League and farm team for the
17 Brooklyn Dodgers; and

18 WHEREAS, On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson made his major
19 league debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers at Ebbets Field before a
20 crowd of 26,623 spectators, including more than 14,000 black
21 patrons, marking the first time ever that an African American
22 athlete played in major league baseball. Jackie Robinson faced the
23 constant onslaught from the public and from players objecting to
24 playing with him; and

25 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson stood firm and focused on beating
26 the critics on the field, despite the umpires who were supposed to
27 protect all the players, including Jackie Robinson, turning a blind
28 eye to the abuse and pitches aimed at his head that he endured,
29 putting his life in danger; and

30 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson finished the 1947 season having
31 played in 151 games for the Dodgers with a batting average of
32 .297, an on-base percentage of .383, and a .427 slugging
33 percentage. He had 175 hits, scoring 125 runs, including 31
34 doubles, 5 triples, and 12 home runs, driving in 48 runs for the
35 year. He led the league with 28 sacrifice hits and 29 stolen bases.
36 His cumulative performance earned him the inaugural Major
37 League Baseball Rookie of the Year Award; and

38 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson retired on January 5, 1957, from
39 professional baseball with an impressive career batting average of
40 .311; and

1 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson became a vocal champion for
2 African American athletes, civil rights, and other social and
3 political causes, so that, after baseball, he became active in business
4 and continued his work as an activist for social change and served
5 on the board of the National Association for the Advancement of
6 Colored People (NAACP) until 1967; and

7 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson was the first African American
8 to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. In 1972,
9 the Dodgers retired his uniform number of 42. His number, 42, is
10 the only number to be retired by all of baseball in honor of his
11 accomplishments, including being the first African American to
12 break the color barrier; and

13 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson died from heart problems and
14 diabetes complications on October 24, 1972, in Stamford,
15 Connecticut. He is survived by his wife, Rachel Isum Robinson,
16 a nursing student whom he met at UCLA, and two of his three
17 children, Sharon and David; his oldest child, Jackie Jr., died in an
18 automobile accident in 1971; and

19 WHEREAS, Jackie Robinson's life and legacy will be
20 remembered as one of the most important in American history. In
21 1997, the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of his breaking
22 major league baseball's color barrier, and in doing so, honored the
23 man who stood defiantly against those who would work against
24 racial equality and acknowledged the profound influence of one
25 man's life on American culture; and

26 WHEREAS, Every year on the anniversary of Jackie Robinson's
27 historic debut, all major league baseball teams across the nation
28 celebrate this milestone by wearing jerseys with only "42" on the
29 back; and

30 WHEREAS, To this day Jackie Robinson is regarded as an
31 inspiring example of how to combat hate and discrimination in the
32 world; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
35 portion of Interstate 210 from California State Route 2 to Orange
36 Grove Boulevard in the County of Los Angeles near where Jackie
37 Robinson grew up as the Jackie Robinson Memorial Highway;
38 and be it further

39 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
40 to determine the cost of appropriate signs consistent with the

1 signing requirements for the state highway system showing this
2 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate
3 sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those signs; and be it
4 further

5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
6 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author
7 for appropriate distribution.

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