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SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 109-228

NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM

APRIL 3, 2006.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. Con. Res. 60]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) to designate the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble and recommends that the resolution, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

On page 2, in the first whereas clause, strike "1988, as" and insert "1988 as".

On page 3, strike lines 9 and 10 insert the following:

"(2) supports the efforts of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum to recognize and preserve the".

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. Con. Res. 60 is to designate the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

During the first half of the 20th century, racism and segregation laws barred African-Americans from playing baseball on major league teams. Black baseball players formed their own teams, and in 1920, eight of those teams formed the first Negro baseball league. Over 70 teams existed at one time or another between 1920 and 1955. Until the 1940s, the teams thrived.

In 1946, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier when the Brooklyn Dodgers recruited him from the Negro Leagues. Other major league teams followed suit and began recruiting star players from the Negro Leagues. Attendance at Negro League games dropped, and the last of the Negro League teams went out of business in the early 1960s.

In 1990, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum was established in Kansas City, Missouri to preserve and interpret for present and future generations the history of the Negro Leagues and the story of its players. Although the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York recognizes the achievements of baseball's greatest players of all races, the Negro Leagues Museum tells the remarkable story of the black athletes who built a successful baseball league in the face of racial segregation. As the Museum's Chairman, John Jordan "Buck" O'Neil, who played in the Negro Leagues himself, testified, "Negro Leagues baseball helped to drive social change in a segregated America." The Museum provides "a gentle explanation of a harsh time in our Nation's history," and in doing so, serves as "a tool for improving race relations by sharing this overlooked and yet very important history."

S. Con Res. 60 recognizes the importance of the Museum's efforts to preserve and interpret this important aspect of our history by designating the Museum as "America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum."

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. Con. Res. 60 was introduced by Senator Talent on October 25, 2005. The Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on S. Con. Res. 60 on November 15, 2005. At its business meeting on March 8, 2006, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. Con. Res. 60 favorably reported as amended.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on March 8, 2006, by unanimous voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. Con. Res. 60, if amended as described herein.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

During consideration of S. Con. Res. 60, the Committee adopted two technical amendments.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Congressional Budget Office estimate of the costs of this measure has been requested but was not received at the time the report was filed. When the report is available, the Chairman will request it to be printed in the Congressional Record for the advice of the Senate.

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. Con. Res. 60. The resolution is not a regulatory measure in the

sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. Con. Res. 60, as ordered reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The views of the Administration on S. Con. Res. 60 were included in testimony received by the Committee at a hearing on the bill on November 15, 2005. This testimony follows:

STATEMENT OF DON MURPHY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on S. Con. Res. 60, designating the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Since the concurrent resolution involves a statement expressing the sentiment of both the Senate and the House and would not become law, our comments are limited to providing background information for the consideration of the committee.

African-Americans began to play baseball in the late 1800s on military teams, college teams, and company teams. They eventually found their way to professional teams with white players. Because of racism and segregation, laws forced them from these teams by 1900. These black players then formed their own units, "barnstorming" around the country to play anyone who would challenge them.

In 1920, an organized league structure was formed under the guidance of Andrew "Rube" Foster—a former player, manager, and owner for the Chicago American Giants. In a meeting held at the Paso YMCA, the center for black culture and life in Kansas City, Missouri, he and a few other Midwestern team owners joined to form the Negro National League. The Kansas City Monarchs were charter members of that league. Rival leagues were soon formed in eastern and southern states, bringing the thrills and innovative play of black baseball to major urban centers and rural countryside in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

The leagues maintained a high level of professional skill and became centerpieces for economic development in many black communities. The Kansas City Monarchs introduced night baseball five years before the major leagues did and won their first Negro Leagues World Series title in 1924. In 1947, Major League Baseball's Brooklyn Dodgers recruited Jackie Robinson from the Kansas City Monarchs. When he left the Monarchs to move to New York, Robinson became the first African-American in the modern era to play on a Major League roster. While this historic event was a key moment in baseball and civil rights his-

tory, it prompted the decline of the Negro Leagues. The best black players were now recruited for the Major Leagues, and black fans followed. The last Negro Leagues folded in the early 1960s, but their legacy lives on through the surviving players and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM).

Through the inspiration of Horace M. Peterson III (1945–1992), founder of the Black Archives of Mid-America, a group of local historians, business leaders, and former baseball players came together to create the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in the early 1990s. It functioned out of a small, one-room office in the Lincoln Building, located in the Historic 18th & Vine Jazz District of Kansas City. The museum opened in 1991 as a tribute to some of baseball's best unknown players. In 1994, it expanded to a 2,000 square-foot space in the Lincoln Building.

During the late 1990s, plans were underway by city officials to create a new home to showcase Kansas City's jazz heritage and to revitalize the Historic District. A new facility was built to host the new American Jazz Museum and a new, permanent, expanded home for the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. This new 50,000 square-foot building opened in September 1997 and the Baseball Museum opened in November. It has welcomed several thousand visitors, including school groups and dignitaries. The NLBM also has developed a traveling exhibit to help bring the history of black baseball to people outside Kansas City.

The NLBM was created to remember the often-forgotten stories of legendary athletes who built a baseball league in the midst of segregation and helped make baseball one of America's national pastimes. It was conceived as a museum to preserve and interpret the legacy of Negro Leagues Baseball, telling the complete story of the average players to the superstars. It tells the story of a vibrant and compelling center of American history that has not been told before. The National Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, New York, recognizes baseball's greatest players. However, the NLBM provides special recognition to those Negro Leaguers who have been honored in Cooperstown.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I would be pleased to answer any questions you or other members of the subcommittee may have.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the resolution S. Con. Res. 60, as ordered reported.