

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WELCOME TO APOSTLE PROPHET  
REV. DR. PAULSON RAJ  
SANGALA, PASTOR OF THE  
LARGEST CHURCH IN ASIA LO-  
CATED IN WARANGAL INDIA

## HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome and pay tribute to Apostle Prophet Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala to the United States of America and pay tribute to him for being pastor of the largest church in Asia with 300,000 members.

Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala was born into a Christian family on March 7, 1973, in Bheemaram Village, Hanamkonda District, Telangana State, India. His father was a mason and his mother was an attendant at a government school. His younger brother is a pharmacist and acupuncture doctor. His grandfather was wealthy and once owned a great deal of land and other businesses, but lost it all due to an alcohol addiction.

Rev. Paulson Raj Sangala states that, at the age of 10, he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and his spiritual life began to thrive. He states that, in 1989, his father died, and everything fell on him because he was the oldest son. Later in 1989, he became ill and collapsed in school and was finally unable to walk. Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj describes in a biography how he began to pray and prayed until he heard a voice saying, "Get up". He says he got up and has never looked back since.

He states that fasting and praying is a continuous part of his spiritual practice. And, although he started his church with virtually nothing, his church organization now consists of over one thousand pastors, prayer services every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (four worship services), and whole-night services every second Tuesday of the month. Thirty-five thousand people attend these prayer services, and all prayer services are telecasted.

Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala states that their organization has a Bible college, five hundred churches in different cities, thirty prominent pastors, and thirty sisters who are in ministry. Warangal, a city in Telangana, is now in the record book as being the city in India with the largest church facility as of May 4th, with a structure that seats 40,000 people at one time.

I congratulate Apostle Prophet Rev. Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala for his spiritual leadership and success. May the blessings of the Lord continue to be upon him.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF TEXAS TECH UNI-  
VERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES  
CENTER EL PASO

## HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the transformative work of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) El Paso over the last ten years in the Paso del Norte region.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso became an independent university within the Texas Tech University System on May 18, 2013, with the goal of improving lives and empowering generations through accessible health education and world-class patient care. Now, the university's four schools train tomorrow's Borderplex health care leaders. By partnering with local hospitals, primarily University Medical Center, the medical school provides vital opportunities for medical residencies, clinical rotations, and postgraduation job placements.

In addition to transforming the lives of 2,135 graduates, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso continues to serve our community by removing access barriers to health care, addressing the health care worker shortage, and conducting cutting-edge research on diseases that directly impact Latino and residents of our border community.

Today, it is my privilege to honor the 10th anniversary of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso and am confident that its strong leadership will remain steadfast in their mission to improve access to health care and inspire future generations of physicians, dentists, nurses, and biomedical researchers.

## HONORING THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF HINCHLIFFE, YANKEE STA- DIUM OF THE NEGRO LEAGUES

## HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following article titled, "The Glorious Return of Hinchliffe, Yankee Stadium of the Negro Leagues" written by Eric Wills about Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey.

[From GQ SPORTS, June 19, 2023]

THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF HINCHLIFFE,  
YANKEE STADIUM OF THE NEGRO LEAGUES

(By Eric Wills)

One of the last remaining Negro League ballparks was nearly lost to history. But professional baseball has now returned to the fabled stadium, which stands as a monument to generations of Black players once con-

signed to the periphery of our national pas-  
time.

Hinchliffe Stadium hosted some of the greatest Black ballplayers in history, including more than 20 future Hall of Famers. A Juneteenth game and ceremony will honor their legacy.

Keon Barnum, a lefty first baseman who, at 6'5" and 225 pounds, makes everything around him look curiously out of scale, stepped into the batter's box at Hinchliffe Stadium. The full sweep of Paterson, New Jersey, unfolded before him: brick mill buildings and church steeples rising beyond the outfield wall, the city's thundering Great Falls just a long toss away. It was a Friday afternoon in mid-May. Barnum and his teammates from the New Jersey Jackals, a Frontier League team that had recently moved from nearby Little Falls, were taking measure of their new ballpark the day before their home opener. A majestic Art Deco number built in 1932, Hinchliffe had sat vacant for more than a quarter century, its concrete and graffiti-covered bleachers crumbling, the unhoused living in its locker rooms. Once the pulsing heart of Paterson, the stadium was reduced to a ruin, a heart-rending symbol of the city's decline. But now, following a \$100-million-plus restoration, Hinchliffe once again glimmers anew—a restored monument to one of baseball's most mythical and complicated legacies.

Thwack! Thwack! Thwack! Barnum began launching moonshots into the sun-streaked ether—the glorious sound of baseball returning to Hinchliffe. "It's an honor to play here," he later said, after joining a select lineage of Black ballplayers who once called the ballpark their own. In its heyday, Hinchliffe flourished as the home to a trio of Negro League teams—the New York Black Yankees, the New York Cubans, and the Newark Eagles—and host to dozens of other Black ball clubs. More than 20 future Hall of Famers once haunted its confines: the likes of Monte Irvin, the legendary outfielder for the New York Giants; Larry Doby, who grew up in Paterson and became the second man, after Jackie Robinson, to break baseball's color barrier; and Josh Gibson, the fabled bomber reputed to have hit nearly 800 home runs. The 1933 Colored Championship of the Nation between the Black Yankees, the Pittsburgh Crawfords, and the Philadelphia Stars unfolded at Hinchliffe, as did a 1935 no-hitter by Black Yankees pitcher Terris "Elmer" McDuffie.

"Jackie got all the publicity for putting up with it. He was first, but the crap I took was just as bad. Nobody said, 'We're going to be nice to the second Black.'"—Larry Doby, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Newark Eagles and Cleveland Indians

Today, only a handful of Negro League players still survive from the era before Robinson broke the color barrier, in 1947; only a handful of stadiums where they played still stand. Of those that do—including Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama; Hamtramck Stadium in Michigan; and J.P. Small Memorial Stadium in Jacksonville—Hinchliffe and Rickwood retain most of their original grandstands and look much as they did about a century ago. Along with Wrigley Field, Hinchliffe is the only ballpark named a National Historic Landmark. You can read oral histories about the Negro Leagues, peruse statistics on the Seamheads Negro

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Leagues Database, an authoritative set of records compiled by a group of trailblazing researchers. To make a pilgrimage to Hinchliffe, however, is to foster a more intimate connection: to walk where the players themselves once did, to commune with the spirits of the athletes who helped build momentum for the Civil Rights movement. If Centre Court at Wimbledon can be considered hallowed ground, Hinchliffe is no less sacred.

On Juneteenth, the Jackals will hold a game at Hinchliffe that doubles as a celebration of the Negro Leagues. In a rare tribute, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum will bring its plaque commemorating Larry Doby from Cooperstown to the stadium as part of a ceremony launching the museum's forthcoming exhibition on the history of Black baseball. Doby was the first Black player in the American League, suiting up with the Cleveland Indians less than three months after Robinson's debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was only 23, and unlike Robinson, got no time in the minors, going straight from the Newark Eagles to Comiskey Park in Chicago. In less than 24 hours he recorded his last Negro Leagues hit (a home run), and his first major league at bat (a pinch hit strike out). His reception from his new teammates was hardly welcoming; he nearly ended up in the stands in St. Louis, when a fan taunted him with sexual innuendos about his wife. "Jackie got all the publicity for putting up with it," Doby said of the racial slurs. "He was first, but the crap I took was just as bad. Nobody said, 'We're going to be nice to the second Black.'"

After his playing career, Doby once again recorded a historic second, becoming the second Black manager in the majors after Frank Robinson when he took the job with the White Sox in 1978. But before all of that, he was just an 18-year-old kid who had come to Hinchliffe for a try out with the Newark Eagles, a Negro Leagues team, after the owner heard that "there was a pretty good ballplayer out of Eastside High School," as Doby recalled at his Hall of Fame induction ceremony. "And I played the rest of the summer with Newark"—the effective start of his long climb to Cooperstown.

I first visited Hinchliffe in 2009, when the chances of its revival seemed remote. The Paterson Public School District, which owned the stadium, had shuttered it in 1997; demolition at one point appeared likely. My guide, Brian LoPinto, who had gotten his first varsity hit at the ballpark, had cofounded a group called the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium that was rallying support to save the site. (The restored stadium, the product of decades of grass-roots organizing and political wrangling, will be reserved for school events and games 180 days a year.)

Attempting to unearth Hinchliffe's storied past, I tracked down the man who was then the greatest living player with a meaningful connection to the site: Monte Irvin, who was teammates with Doby on the Eagles before he led the Giants to the World Series in 1951. He was then 90 and living in Houston. When I reached him by phone, he helped illuminate the meaning of an era I had only begun to understand, unspooling stories with a casual grace. He told me how, in the spring of 1937, he had stepped into the batting box in Hinchliffe as a 18-year-old high school star from nearby Orange with a .666 batting average. And how he had launched some 400-foot moonshots of his own over the left field fence during his try out for the Eagles. The sound caught the attention of two visiting players from the Homestead Grays, who were preparing for a game against Newark later that day: Josh Gibson and Buck Leonard (considered by newspapers at the time to be the

Black Babe Ruth and Black Lou Gehrig, respectively, although who's to say Lou Gehrig wasn't the white Buck Leonard?). As Irvin recalled, "Buck hollered out to William Bell, the manager, 'Hey, who is that youngster?'"

"Our games gave Black Americans hope all across the country. They said, 'If these ball players can succeed under these very difficult conditions, then maybe we can too.'"—Monte Irvin, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Newark Eagles and New York Giants

It was the start of an enduring friendship, and also of Irvin's professional career. His stories revealed hard truths: the assumed name (Jimmy Nelson) he played under to preserve his college eligibility; the meagerness of his starting salary (earning only \$125 a month, he lived with his parents to save money); the long bus rides (Negro League teams sometimes logged 30,000 miles in a summer); the difficulty finding restaurants or hotels that would serve him and his teammates (players remembered staying at bed-bug-infested motels, even funeral homes, and with their \$1-per-day meal money and challenges of life on the road sometimes subsisted on sardines, bologna, crackers, or ballpark hot dogs). "Conditions were abominable, but we didn't know any better," as Irvin once recalled. "We were young and strong, and we loved the game so much."

Perhaps the greatest injustice was that segregation had robbed him of his prime. "This should have happened to me 10 years ago," he once said of joining the Giants at age 30. "I'm not even half the ballplayer I was then." (And what a player he was: With his grace and all-around game, many of his contemporaries thought he should have been the one to break the color barrier in the majors.) Yet Irvin expressed no abiding anger at his fortunes, and shared with me but one overriding regret, touching in its magnanimity: that the full sweep of the country hadn't seen the likes of Satchel Paige and Gibson, "one of the greatest hitters who ever lived."

Because almost none of the Negro League teams owned their own stadiums, they relied on brokers and agents to arrange games, often at major league stadiums, for a cut of the profits, of course. Conditions at cheaper and more accessible fields could be abysmal—rocky sandlots with peculiar dimensions, smoke wafting in from passing trains. But at Hinchliffe, the Black Yankees and New York Cubans found a reliable and dignified home base that afforded them a measure of freedom—and a chance to build their own community against the backdrop of segregation. Here, and across the Negro Leagues, they made the national pastime their own: a game of speed and stylish intelligence, one that elevated the bunt-and-run into an art form, say, or saw Paige handcuff batters with his hesitation pitch, later outlawed in the majors.

Irvin had grown up watching the Negro Leaguers—"the way they looked, the way they dressed, the way they played, it was a great inspiration," he told me—and he remembered how his generation had played a similar role. "Our games gave Black Americans hope all across the country," he once recalled, before his passing at age 96, in 2016. "They said, 'If these ball players can succeed under these very difficult conditions, then maybe we can too.'"

After a rainout, and two days after Barnum staged his batting-practice show, opening day finally arrived at Hinchliffe: the Jackals vs. the Sussex County Miners. One fact emerged from the start: It is a hitter-friendly ballpark. In the late afternoon glow, after LoPinto secured the first pitched ball for the museum that's being established at the stadium, the Miners' lead-off hitter went deep, recording the first of 10 home runs in

the Jackals' 10-6 victory. ("The ball just flies," Barnum said, after hitting one out.) Purists might wish the field were grass, not turf, or that home plate was positioned at the bottom of the horseshoe, as in the Negro League days, and not in the northeast corner of the stadium, where the school district later moved it. The right field line, listed at 327 feet, appears far shorter than that; a 40-foot-high net prevents line drives from leaving the park. But none of those quibbles overshadowed the thrill of baseball returning to Hinchliffe.

Bobby Jones, the vice president and chief business officer for the Jackals, and a former left-handed pitcher for the Mets who grew up going to Kennedy-Eastside High School Thanksgiving day football games at Hinchliffe, helped broker the deal to bring the team to Paterson—a move he hopes will contribute to the city's economic revival. "I thought coming here that we could be a positive light in a community that needed it," he told me. "These kids who go to that school have never thought they'd get out of Paterson because they looked down and saw nothing but garbage. And now it's transformed their whole thinking. The possibilities are real to these kids. It's bigger than baseball."—Harold Reynolds, former All-Star second baseman for the Seattle Mariners

In March, Paterson, a majority Latino city with a 25 percent poverty rate, made headlines when police shot and killed a Black counselor from an anti-violence organization, which helped lead to the state Attorney General's office takeover of the police department. It's too early to say whether the Hinchliffe project, which relied on a significant infusion of state tax credits that helped fund the construction of affordable senior housing at the site, can help solve some of the city's most pressing problems (some local activists are skeptical). Or whether Jackals fans, a few of whom expressed their disappointment on social media at the team's move away from Yogi Berra Stadium, in Little Falls, will stay away (attendance on opening day was sparse).

But at the stadium's ribbon cutting a few days earlier, Harold Reynolds, the former Seattle Mariners second baseman turned TV analyst, who's become an unofficial ambassador for Hinchliffe, told me the project has already had a positive effect on the students of Public School 5, which rises above the stadium's northwest side. "These kids who go to that school have never thought they'd get out of Paterson because they looked down and saw nothing but garbage," Reynolds said. "And now I was talking with the principal, and it's transformed their whole thinking. The possibilities are real to these kids. It's bigger than baseball." Reynolds has been lobbying MLB to host a Field of Dreams-style game at Hinchliffe (a game that will be held at Rickwood next year). "The beauty of baseball is the folklore," he told me. "The stories are what carry our sport."

In 2020, MLB attempted to atone for its original sin by announcing that it was "elevating the Negro Leagues to 'Major League' status," and gave credit for the decision in part to the Seamheads Negro Leagues Database. Of course, it was the majors that needed elevating, and the often sublime players of the Negro Leagues who transformed the majors into actual major leagues. (Black baseball teams logged a winning record against major league and all-star teams between 1900 and 1948, according to research compiled by Todd Peterson in the book *The Negro Leagues Were Major Leagues*.) But because many games were lost to history, the box scores never reported, Negro League statistics will never be comprehensive (Gibson has but 240 reported home runs in

Seamheads); they will never reveal the constraints that Black ballplayers faced, lack of coaching among them; and they will always have been generated independent of the majors, an injustice that can never be corrected.

Hinchliffe invites you to consider difficult questions: consider if baseball had integrated a decade or two earlier, or if the game had never been segregated at all; consider if Paige, Gibson, Leonard, Oscar Charleston, Cool Papa Bell, and dozens of others had enjoyed their primes in the majors, what the record book might look like today, how different our understanding of the game would be. Consider also the fate of the Black players who never made it to the show because they came of age too soon or found themselves shut out of the game, unable to find a team, after the color line was broken, the leagues they helped build vanishing like a ghost ship into darkness. In a bittersweet twist, when Black fans flocked to see Robinson at Ebbets Field, the demise of the Negro Leagues soon followed, even as major league teams were slow to sign Black players: The Red Sox, for instance, took 12 years after Robinson's debut to integrate. And finally, consider the forces that kept baseball segregated, and how those forces persist today: Witness the declining percentage of Black ballplayers in the majors and the continuing struggle to diversify the coaching and front office ranks.

In the thickening shadows of Hinchliffe, after the Jackals' victory in their home opener, I stood with Nilo Rijo, the team's second baseman, as he fielded questions from reporters. He attended high school in nearby Passaic and often drove by Hinchliffe on the way to his workout facility without recognizing the then-ruin as a ballpark. Like so many others, he has now started learning its history.

Standing there in that repository of myths, I thought back to my chat with Reynolds after the ribbon-cutting. During his playing days he had befriended Buck O'Neil, the legendary first baseman turned manager from the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs, who had passed along stories from his fabled career. And now, as members of the next generation step through the gates at Hinchliffe, they too can discover the history of the Black owners and managers who built the Negro Leagues, and the Black ballplayers who changed the sport. Reynolds, for his part, hopes that a trip to the ballpark will convey a simple yet transformative truth: "that baseball was a Black sport."

Eric Wills is a former senior editor at Architect magazine whose work has appeared in The Washington Post, Smithsonian, and GQ.

#### RECOGNIZING KAREN AYALA FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

**HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Karen Ayala for her substantial contributions to the well-being of Illinois residents throughout her career in public health. Ms. Ayala has spearheaded efforts to improve health outcomes at the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), including playing a central role responding to the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. Under her successful leadership, DuPage County was re-

cently rated the healthiest of Illinois' 102 counties for the third consecutive year. She tirelessly endeavored to mitigate multiple public health crises while simultaneously establishing programs that will maintain the DCHD's track record of success for years to come.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Wartburg College and her Master's in Public Health from the University of Illinois-Chicago, Ms. Ayala began working in Winnebago County, Illinois as a case manager for pregnant and parenting teens. She supported the delivery of services to approximately 350 families and witnessed the capacity of local government to improve the well-being of residents, an experience that solidified her commitment to helping others as a public health official. Ms. Ayala transitioned to the DCHD in 2007 to serve as Unit Director of Community Health Services. She quickly proved her capabilities and was named Executive Director in 2014.

As Executive Director, Ms. Ayala has worked to combat the opioid crisis, an effort that has benefited not only DuPage County but the nation as a whole. She helped lead a comprehensive crisis management approach including an opioid education program, the collection of unused medications, partnerships with mental health service providers, and increasing Narcan usage, which is an essential tool in the event of an overdose. Eager to share DuPage County's hard-learned lessons, Ms. Ayala submitted testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to detail options to address the opioid crisis. Her innovative approach, which utilized community assessment and community collaboration, created a model for other public health departments.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ayala led the DCHD through the public health crisis. Under her leadership, the DCHD kept residents informed with nuanced and accurate information despite initial uncertainty regarding the virus's characteristics. The DCHD provided guidance on masking and social distancing despite the intense scrutiny faced by public health departments and constantly fluctuating infection rates. Upon the rollout of the vaccine, Ms. Ayala facilitated the establishment of a mass vaccination clinic at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. Her steady leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic provided essential guidance to DuPage County residents, heightened vaccination rates, and helped save lives.

Ms. Ayala has worked diligently to mitigate health crises within her local community and across the country. She has made life-changing impacts on Illinois residents and paved the way for the future of improved public health in DuPage County. I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Ayala, who has recently announced her upcoming retirement. It is a privilege to recognize the achievements of Karen Ayala and express my immense gratitude for her years of public service and contributions to the citizens of Illinois and the country.

RECOGNIZING CARL BOLCH, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO RACETRAC, INC. AND THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of Georgia's finest business leaders and an outstanding individual, Carl Bolch, Jr., Executive Chairman of the Board of RaceTrac, Inc.

Throughout his career, Carl has been a pioneer in the convenience retail industry, driving innovation and redefining convenience for millions of consumers. During his more than fifty years with the company, Carl helped RaceTrac grow from 100 stores in two states, to more than 780 stores in 12 states with over 10,000 employees—and today, RaceTrac is the second largest privately held company in Georgia and the 22nd largest in the United States.

Carl joined RaceTrac, his family's business, after earning a degree in Economics from the Wharton School of Business and a Juris Doctor from Duke University School of Law, moving through various roles until he served as CEO and now continues as Executive Chairman of the Board.

Beyond RaceTrac, Carl has also left his mark on the convenience store industry through his service as President of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America and Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Convenience Stores.

It has also been Carl's mission to give back to his community. He served as a 25-year member of the Atlanta Rotary Club's Board of Directors, as well as the Board of Directors for Camp Sunshine, a Georgia-based organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children with cancer. Carl also serves on the Patient Council for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and is a pivotal reason RaceTrac and its guests have contributed more than \$7 million to the organization over the past decade.

Additionally, Carl and his wife, Susan, have made significant contributions to education, including founding the Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke University School of Law. A father of five—all of Carl's children have served RaceTrac in different capacities over the years, including Carl and Susan's two daughters, who currently lead the company's day-to-day operations, and their son, who serves on the Board.

Carl Bolch, Jr. is an inspiration to us all. His contributions to society will have a lasting impact. I am honored to represent him in Congress. Please join me in recognizing and celebrating his achievements.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BYRON OTTO "MANNIE FRESH" THOMAS

**HON. TROY A. CARTER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a Mastermind Record