

By: Johnson

H.R. No. 3058

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of one of professional baseball's legendary  
2 players drew to a close with the passing of Ernie Banks on January  
3 23, 2015, at the age of 83; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on January 31, 1931, to Eddie and  
5 Essie Banks, Ernie Banks grew up on Fairmount Street with his 11  
6 brothers and sisters; he attended Booker T. Washington High School  
7 and spent his summers playing for a semipro baseball team based out  
8 of Amarillo before his graduation in 1950; he subsequently began  
9 his professional career with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro  
10 National League, playing one season with the team before serving  
11 his country for two years as a member of the U.S. Army; he rejoined  
12 the Monarchs after completing his military service, and in 1953 he  
13 made his major league debut with the Chicago Cubs, becoming the  
14 first African American player to take the field for the franchise;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Banks quickly proved himself an athlete of rare  
17 ability, becoming the Cubs' everyday shortstop in his second year  
18 with the team and setting major-league records for grand slams in a  
19 season and home runs by a shortstop in 1955; he enjoyed his most  
20 impressive campaign in 1958, compiling a .313 batting average, 47  
21 home runs, and a league-leading 129 runs batted in to win the  
22 National League Most Valuable Player award; the following year, he  
23 became the first National League player in history to capture  
24 consecutive MVP awards, hitting 45 homers and once again leading

1 the league in RBIs with 143; acknowledged for his defensive skills  
2 as well, he led the league in fielding percentage on three occasions  
3 from his spot at shortstop and was named a Gold Glove Award winner  
4 in 1960; he switched to first base in 1962, logging nine successful  
5 seasons at that position before his retirement in 1971 after 19  
6 years with the Cubs; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Mr. Banks tallied a  
8 lifetime batting average of .274 to go along with 2,583 hits and  
9 1,636 runs batted in; he was the first shortstop to join the  
10 500-home run club, and he retired with 512 career home runs; his  
11 myriad achievements also included 11 trips to the All-Star Game and  
12 a selection to Major League Baseball's prestigious All-Century Team  
13 in 1999; moreover, he was elected to the National Baseball Hall of  
14 Fame in 1977 in his first year of eligibility, and he was awarded  
15 the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of  
16 Freedom, in 2013; and

17 WHEREAS, Forever known as "Mr. Cub," this esteemed  
18 ballplayer was popular for his positive personality and his passion  
19 for the game; in addition, his favorite saying, "It's a beautiful  
20 day for a ballgame--let's play two!" remains one of the game's most  
21 popular quotes; and

22 WHEREAS, During his two decades in Major League Baseball,  
23 Ernie Banks captured the imagination of Cubs fans as well as  
24 baseball enthusiasts across the nation, and his achievements will  
25 be remembered and celebrated long into the future; now, therefore,  
26 be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ernie Banks and  
2 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family; and, be it  
3 further

4       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it so in memory of Ernie Banks.