

Dec. 6, 2006
[S. Con. Res. 91]

LEROY “SATCHEL” PAIGE, POSTHUMOUS
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD—
SUPPORT

Whereas Satchel Paige, who was born on July 7, 1906, in Mobile, Alabama, lived a life that was marked by his outstanding contributions to the game of baseball;

Whereas Satchel Paige was a dominating pitcher whose baseball career spanned several decades, from 1927 to 1965;

Whereas Satchel Paige played in the Negro Leagues and became famous for his unusual pitching style and his ability to strike out almost any player he faced;

Whereas Satchel Paige pitched 62 consecutive scoreless innings in 1933;

Whereas due to the practice of segregation in baseball, Satchel Paige was prohibited for many years from playing baseball at the major league level;

Whereas Satchel Paige played for many Negro League teams, including—

- (1) the Chattanooga Black Lookouts;
- (2) the Birmingham Black Barons;
- (3) the Nashville Elite Giants;
- (4) the Mobile Tigers;
- (5) the Pittsburgh Crawfords; and
- (6) the Kansas City Monarchs;

Whereas while pitching for the Kansas City Monarchs, Satchel Paige won 4 consecutive league pennants from 1939 to 1942, and later won a 5th pennant in 1946 with that team;

Whereas after the desegregation of baseball, Satchel Paige signed a contract to pitch for the Cleveland Indians at age 42, and soon thereafter became the oldest rookie ever to play baseball at the major league level;

Whereas the extraordinary pitching of Satchel Paige helped the Cleveland Indians complete a championship season in 1948, as the team won the American League Championship and the World Series;

Whereas Satchel Paige threw an estimated 300 career shutouts;

Whereas in 1971, Satchel Paige became the first Negro League player to be inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas the legendary pitching of Satchel Paige earned him numerous awards and accolades, including—

- (1) a nomination to the All Century Team by Major League Baseball as 1 of the greatest players of the 20th century; and
- (2) a selection to the 50 Legends of Baseball by the Postal Service;

Whereas despite years of discrimination that limited the play of Satchel Paige to the Negro Leagues, his prowess on the pitching mound earned him the respect and admiration of fans and players throughout the world of baseball;

Whereas Satchel Paige passed away on June 8, 1982; and

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, was established in 1945 to recognize citizens of the United States who have made exceptional contributions to—

- (1) the security or national interests of the United States;
- (2) world peace;
- (3) the culture of the United States or the world; or
- (4) the citizens of the United States or the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Leroy “Satchel” Paige in honor of his distinguished baseball career and the contributions that he has made to the improvement of the society of the United States and the world.

Agreed to December 6, 2006.

ARNOLD “RED” AUERBACH—HONORING

Dec. 7, 2006
[H. Con. Res. 497]

Whereas Arnold “Red” Auerbach was born on September 20, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York, the son of immigrants from Minsk, Russia;

Whereas Red started playing basketball as a public school student in Brooklyn and later became a star guard for Eastern District High School, making all-scholastic second team in his senior year;

Whereas Red started his coaching career at St. Albans Prep School and Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., before serving in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946;

Whereas, in 1946, Red began his professional coaching career with the Washington Capitols in the Basketball Association of America (BAA) and led the team to the 1947 and 1949 division titles, joining the Boston Celtics as coach in 1950 after the BAA merged with the National Basketball Association (NBA);

Whereas Red’s record of success on the basketball court and in the Celtics’ front office is unmatched;

Whereas during Red’s leadership of the Boston Celtics, the team won 16 NBA championships, including 9 championships, with a record 8 in a row, during Red’s tenure as coach;

Whereas when Red retired from coaching in 1966 to become general manager of the Celtics, he was the winningest coach in NBA history with 1,037 victories and had won almost two-thirds of the games he had coached over a 20-year NBA coaching career;

Whereas during his nearly 57-year tenure with the Celtics as Head Coach, General Manager, Vice Chairman of the Board, and President, Red was the architect of one of the greatest dynasties in the history of professional sports;

Whereas Red infused the Celtics organization with the values of teamwork, respect, tenacity, and loyalty, creating a culture known as “Celtic Pride” that will be forever associated with the Boston Celtics franchise;

Whereas Red’s imprint on the Celtics, the NBA, and the game of basketball is permanent and visible today in innovations that Red developed, including the “sixth man” role and fast break style of play;