

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 232

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen N.Munoz, Murphy, Assemblyman Caputo,

Assemblywomen Stanfield, Tucker, Assemblyman Verrelli,

Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman

Carter, Assemblymen DiMaio, Scharfenberger, Holley, Thomson,

Freiman, Rooney, Giblin, Peterson, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle and

DiMaso

SYNOPSIS

Respectfully urges National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum induct Joan Whitney Payson into Hall of Fame.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the National
2 Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to induct Joan Whitney
3 Payson into the Hall of Fame.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Joan Whitney Payson was born on February 5, 1903, in
6 New York City, was a member of the prominent Whitney family,
7 and the granddaughter of former Secretary to President Abraham
8 Lincoln and United States Secretary of State John Hay; and
9 **WHEREAS**, An avid sports enthusiast, Mrs. Payson operated the highly
10 successful Greentree Stable, winning numerous notable graded
11 stakes races, including the Kentucky Derby twice, the Preakness
12 Stakes once, and the Belmont Stakes four times; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payson purchased a minority stake in the New York
14 Giants, which she sold when the team moved to San Francisco in
15 1957; and
16 **WHEREAS**, After the Giants' departure, Mrs. Payson spearheaded the
17 effort to return National League baseball to New York, and in 1962,
18 she became the majority owner of the New York Metropolitan
19 Baseball Club, the "Mets"; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payson was the first woman to buy majority control
21 of a team in a major North American sports league; and
22 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payson served as the team's first president from 1962
23 to 1975, overseeing the Mets' first of two World Series
24 Championships in 1969, a team often known as the "Miracle Mets"
25 because of its perceived underdog status; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Active in the affairs of her "Amazin' Mets," Mrs. Payson
27 was much admired by the team's personnel and players and was
28 inducted posthumously into the New York Mets Hall of Fame in
29 1981; and
30 **WHEREAS**, The Mets are about to begin their 60th season, having
31 brought joy, exhilaration, heartbreak, and entertainment to millions
32 of New Jerseyans; and
33 **WHEREAS**, In addition to her work in baseball, Mrs. Payson was a
34 prominent philanthropist, including establishing the "Helen Hay
35 Whitney Foundation" for medical research and, together with her
36 husband, providing funds to build Pepperdine University's library;
37 and
38 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payson passed away on October 4, 1975, in New
39 York City, just following the conclusion of the Mets' 1975 season;
40 and
41 **WHEREAS**, Despite the numerous contributions by women to the
42 game of baseball, only one woman, out of 333 total inductees,
43 has been inducted into the Hall of Fame; and
44 **WHEREAS**, The Golden Days Era Committee was established by the
45 National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Board of Directors
46 in 2016 to consider Hall of Fame candidates whose primary
47 contributions to the game came from 1950 to 1969; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Payson’s contributions to Major League Baseball
2 during that period, including owning a minority stake in the New
3 York Giants, co-founding the New York Mets, and winning the
4 1969 World Series Championship, make her more than qualified for
5 induction into the Hall of Fame through the Golden Days Era
6 Committee, which next meets to consider candidates in the fall of
7 2021; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In light of Mrs. Payson’s extraordinary achievements and
9 contributions to baseball, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and
10 Museum and the Golden Days Era Committee should strongly
11 consider and ultimately induct Joan Whitney Payson as part of the
12 Hall of Fame’s Class of 2022; now, therefore,

13
14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
15 Jersey:

16
17 1. This House respectfully urges the Golden Days Era
18 Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum to
19 induct Joan Whitney Payson into the Hall of Fame as part of the
20 Class of 2022 for her extraordinary achievements and contributions
21 to Major League Baseball.

22
23 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
24 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
25 Commissioner of Major League Baseball, the President of the
26 National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Chairperson of
27 the Board of Directors of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and
28 Museum, and to the family of Joan Whitney Payson.

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31 STATEMENT

32

33 This resolution respectfully urges the National Baseball Hall of
34 Fame and Museum to induct Joan Whitney Payson into the Hall of
35 Fame.

36 Mrs. Payson was instrumental in the history of Major League
37 Baseball (MLB) from the 1950s to the 1970s. Following the New
38 York Giants’ decision to move the franchise to San Francisco in
39 1957, Mrs. Payson, who was a minority stakeholder at the time,
40 sold her stake in the team and spearheaded an effort to create a new
41 franchise for New York City. In 1962, Mrs. Payson co-founded the
42 New York Mets to compete in the National League of MLB. Mrs.
43 Payson would serve as the team’s president from 1962 to 1975. She
44 was the first woman to buy majority control of a team in a major
45 North American sports league.

46 Mrs. Payson was deeply involved in all aspects of the franchise
47 and much admired by the team's personnel and players. In 1969, in
48 just their 8th season in existence, the Mets would win their first of

1 two World Series Championships. The 1969 team became known
2 as the “Miracle Mets” because of their perceived underdog status
3 against the heavily favored Baltimore Orioles. Mrs. Payson
4 continued to serve as president of the Mets until her death in 1975.

5 Despite the numerous contributions by women to the game of
6 baseball, only one woman, out of 333 total inductees, has been
7 inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Golden Days Era Committee
8 of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was established
9 in 2016 to consider Hall of Fame candidates whose primary
10 contributions to the game came from 1950 to 1969. Mrs. Payson’s
11 contributions to Major League Baseball during that period make her
12 more than qualified for induction through the Golden Days Era
13 Committee, which next meets to consider candidates in the fall of
14 2021. Based off of these qualifications, the National Baseball Hall
15 of Fame and Museum and the Golden Days Era Committee should
16 strongly consider and ultimately induct Joan Whitney Payson as
17 part of the Hall of Fame’s Class of 2022.