

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 151

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1997

By Assemblymen **KRAMER** and **T.SMITH**

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** honoring the accomplishments of Jackie  
2 Robinson on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his entry into major  
3 league baseball.  
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, April 15, 1997 marked the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's  
6 debut as the first black American to play baseball as a member of a  
7 modern major league team; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, Robinson, a 28-year-old rookie, made history at Ebbets Field by  
9 playing first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers in their game at home against  
10 the Boston Braves; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, Prior to that game, black American athletes were purposely and  
12 unjustly discriminated against by and effectively barred from modern major  
13 league baseball, not because of their inability to play the game, but only  
14 because of the color of their skin; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, By breaking the previously all-white color barrier in Brooklyn that  
16 day, Jackie Robinson not only integrated the Dodgers but also helped to  
17 lead the way toward integration in all American professional sports and  
18 American society as well; and
- 19 **WHEREAS**, At the end of his rookie season, Robinson had become National  
20 League Rookie of the Year, with 12 home runs, a league-leading 29 stolen  
21 bases and a .297 batting average; and
- 22 **WHEREAS**, In 1949, Robinson was selected as the league's Most Valuable  
23 Player and also won the year's batting title with a .342 average; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, As a result of his extraordinary talent as a player, Robinson was  
25 inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, New York , in  
26 1962; and
- 27 **WHEREAS**, At the time of his death in 1972, Robinson was remembered  
28 across the nation as a gifted athlete and on the 40th anniversary of his  
29 major league baseball debut, he was honored by the United States Post  
30 Office by the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, At a special ceremony during a baseball game at Shea Stadium on  
32 April 15th of this year, President Clinton, members of the Robinson family  
33 and Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig joined together to pay  
34 homage to the man who, in the President's words, "changed the face of  
35 baseball and the face of America forever"; and

1 **WHEREAS**, As a unique tribute to Robinson, it was also announced to the  
2 54,000 people who crowded the stadium on the night of the ceremony that  
3 major league baseball would retire permanently his uniform number-42;  
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for this House to note the significance of this  
6 50th anniversary and to offer its tribute to Jackie Robinson, his  
7 accomplishments and his enduring legacy; now, therefore,

8

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

10

11 1. This House honors the accomplishments of Jackie Robinson on the  
12 occasion of the 50th anniversary of his entry into major league baseball.

13

14 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the  
15 General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to  
16 members of Mr. Robinson's family and the Acting Commissioner of Baseball.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 This Assembly Resolution honors the accomplishments of Jackie Robinson  
22 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his entry into major league baseball.

23

24

25

26

27 Honors accomplishments of Jackie Robinson on occasion of the 50th  
28 anniversary of his entry into major league baseball.