

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 221

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Joint Resolution No. 221.

This resolution commemorates July 5 of each year as Larry Doby Day in New Jersey.

Lawrence “Larry” Eugene Doby was an extraordinary high school athlete from Paterson, New Jersey who went on to become a pioneer in the desegregation of professional baseball. He quickly broke records being named to seven All-Star Games, winning two American League home run titles, and in 1948 joined Satchel Paige in being the first African American to win a Major League World Series. He became only the second African American manager in Major League Baseball with his appointment in 1978.

Larry Doby was more than just an outstanding ball player: Mr. Doby was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II, a steward of New Jersey’s urban youth, and an example of dignity and grace in the face of adversity until his passing in 2003.

Mr. Doby has been recognized by Congress with a Gold Medal for significant contributions to civil rights and wartime service. The City of Paterson has recognized Mr. Doby by commemorating a day in his honor. As 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of Mr. Doby breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball and the completion of the renovation of his Negro Leagues playing field, it is fitting New Jersey commemorates Larry Doby with a day in his honor.