

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 46

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM W. SPEARMAN

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Major League Baseball's Golden Era Committee to elect Dick Allen to National Baseball Hall of Fame.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/14/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Major League Baseball's
2 Golden Era Committee to elect Dick Allen to the National
3 Baseball Hall of Fame.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Richard "Dick" Allen was a gifted athlete who played
6 Major League Baseball for 15 seasons and ranked among the
7 sport's top offensive producers of the 1960s and early 1970s; and
8 **WHEREAS**, During his first full season in the majors in 1964, Allen
9 batted .318 with 201 hits as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies
10 and led the National League (NL) in runs (125), triples (13), extra
11 base hits (80), and total bases (352), en route to winning the 1964
12 NL Rookie of the Year Award; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Allen, a seven-time all-star, was arguably the best hitter in
14 baseball from 1965-1967. During that span, Allen made three
15 straight all-star teams, batted .308, and averaged 27 home runs and
16 90 RBI per season; and
17 **WHEREAS**, For those three seasons, Allen's adjusted on-base plus
18 slugging (OPS+), which measures the ability of a player to both get
19 on base and to hit for power while adjusting for the park and league
20 in which he played, was an astounding 166 (an OPS+ over 150 is
21 considered excellent), and was higher than that of other stars of the
22 era, including Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, and Roberto Clemente;
23 and
24 **WHEREAS**, In 1972, as a member of the Chicago White Sox, Allen had
25 the finest season of his career, batting .308 and leading the
26 American League in home runs (37), RBI (113), and OPS+ (199)
27 and was awarded the American League (AL) MVP honors; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Despite the fact that Allen entered professional baseball
29 during a period of racial turbulence and was subjected to racial
30 harassment and intimidation during periods of his career, he battled
31 through those difficulties to emerge as one of baseball's most
32 productive players; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Dick Allen is considered to be the Jackie Robinson of the
34 Delaware Valley as he faced obstacles similar to those faced by that
35 legendary player who broke the color barrier and became the first
36 African American to play Major League Baseball; and
37 **WHEREAS**, Former major league baseball players are selected to the
38 National Baseball Hall of Fame by either the Baseball Writer's
39 Association of America (BWAA) ballot, or via Major League
40 Baseball's Veteran's Committee, which is composed of the Pre-
41 Integration Era Committee (1876-1946), the Golden Era Committee
42 (1947-1972), and the Expansion Era Committee (1973 to the
43 present); and
44 **WHEREAS**, It is the stated purpose of the Golden Era Committee to
45 consider and elect candidates to the Hall of Fame, as identified by
46 Major League Baseball's Historical Overview Committee, who
47 played the majority of their careers between 1947-1972 and who
48 are no longer eligible via the BWAA ballot; and

1 **WHEREAS**, In an era known for its pitching dominance, Allen finished
2 his career with 351 home runs, an OPS+ of 156, was a seven-time
3 all-star, a two-time AL home run champion (1972 and 1974), an AL
4 MVP (1972), and the NL Rookie of the Year (1964). It is widely
5 thought that Allen's career statistics, which are on par with many of
6 the legendary stars of the game from that era, would have been even
7 more impressive if he had not been subjected to the harsh realities
8 of racism while playing in the major leagues; now, therefore,

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

12
13 1. This House urges Major League Baseball's Historical
14 Overview Committee to identify, and the Golden Era Committee to
15 elect, Richard "Dick" Allen to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

16
17 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
18 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to each
19 member of the Historical Overview Committee and the Golden Era
20 Committee.

21
22
23 STATEMENT

24
25 This Assembly resolution urges Major League Baseball's
26 Historical Overview Committee to identify, and the Golden Era
27 Committee to elect, Richard "Dick" Allen to the National Baseball
28 Hall of Fame. Dick Allen played Major League Baseball for 15
29 seasons and ranked among the sport's top offensive producers of the
30 1960s and early 1970s. In an era known for its pitching dominance,
31 Allen finished his career with 351 home runs, had an adjusted on-
32 base plus slugging of 156, was a seven-time all-star, a two-time AL
33 home run champion (1972 and 1974), an AL MVP (1972), and the
34 NL Rookie of the Year (1964). It is widely thought that Allen's
35 career statistics, which are on par with many of the legendary stars
36 of the game from that era, would have been even more impressive if
37 he had not been subjected to the harsh realities of racism while
38 playing in the major leagues.