

SJR91 ENROLLED



1 SJR91

2 CXVTFJJ-2

3 By Senators Coleman, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,
4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman-Madison,
5 Elliott, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones,
6 Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts,
7 Sessions, Shelnut, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts,
8 Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

9 RFD: Rules

10 First Read: 06-May-25



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 SJR_____ RECOGNIZING MAY 6TH AS THE BIRTHDAY OF ALABAMA'S
5 BASEBALL GIANT, WILLIAM HOWARD MAYS, JR.
6

7 WHEREAS, William "Willie" Howard Mays, Jr. was born
8 on May 6, 1931, in the former town of Westfield, in
9 Jefferson County, Alabama in 1931, and began playing
10 baseball at an early age with his father, "Cat" Mays; and

11 WHEREAS, Willie was a standout multi-sport athlete at
12 Fairfield Industrial High School, leading the basketball
13 team in scoring, playing multiple positions on the football
14 team, and showcasing his natural talent for baseball; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1948, he began his professional baseball
16 career at the age of 16 in the Negro American League, 11
17 years before the complete integration of Major League
18 Baseball in 1959; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1948, Mays recorded his first
20 professional hit at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama,
21 while playing for the Birmingham Black Barons, and used his
22 outstanding fielding, batting, and base running ability to
23 help lead the team to the 1948 Negro World Series; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1950, he signed a contract with the New
25 York Giants after graduating from Fairfield Industrial High
26 School, spent a brief year in the minor leagues, and was
27 quickly called up to play his first game for the New York
28 Giants on May 24, 1951; and



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29 WHEREAS, in 1951, he was voted the National League
30 Rookie of the Year after recording 68 runs batted in and 20
31 home runs in 121 games; and

32 WHEREAS, from 1952 to 1954, Willie was drafted into
33 the Army and served the United States during the Korean War;
34 during his military service, he spent most of his time in
35 the Army at Fort Eustis, Virginia, as an athletic instructor
36 and played baseball for the Fort Eustis Wheels; and

37 WHEREAS, after Mays finished his service in the Army,
38 he returned to help the New York Giants win the 1954 World
39 Series by robbing a Cleveland batter of a go-ahead run with
40 an implausible basket catch in deep center field to win game
41 one of the 1954 World Series, in a moment that will be
42 forever remembered as "The Catch"; and

43 WHEREAS, he earned a remarkable number of awards and
44 accolades throughout his career in Major League Baseball,
45 including 24 All-Star Game selections, two National League
46 Most Valuable Player Awards, 12 Gold Glove Awards, and four
47 National League home run leader titles; and

48 WHEREAS, Willie achieved a .302 lifetime batting
49 average while recording 3,293 hits, 660 home runs, and a
50 Major League Baseball all-time record of 7,112 putouts from
51 the outfield; he is the only player in Major League Baseball
52 history with more than 300 home runs, 300 stolen bases,
53 3,000 career hits, and a career batting average greater than
54 .300; his accomplishments were not fully recognized until
55 2024, when Major League Baseball incorporated the statistics
56 from the Negro American League into the Major League



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Baseball historical records; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Mays was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame on his first ballot; as a tribute to the indelible impact and enduring legacy of Mays, the San Francisco Giants and New York Mets retired his jersey number 24; the address of the stadium of the San Francisco Giants is 24 Willie Mays Plaza, in recognition of the contributions and impact that Mays had on the San Francisco Giants organization throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Willie was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor the President can award to a civilian; and

WHEREAS, Willie Mays died on June 18, 2024; he personified the American Dream by relying on his relentless work ethic and determination to become an immortal giant of baseball, all while inspiring millions of people; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of what would have been his 94th Birthday, William "Willie" Howard Mays, Jr. is honored for his hard work and sacrifice, recognized for his inspiration to future generations, and celebrated for his historic feats achieved while playing the game he loved.



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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Senate 06-May-25

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and
passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives

Passed: 07-May-25

By: Senator Coleman