

Don Newcombe, Junior Gilliam and Joe Black—played cards and went over strategy: what to do if a fight broke out on the field; if a pitcher threw at them; if somebody called one of them “nigger.”

In his later years, after blacks were secure in the game, Jackie let go of his forbearance and fought back. In the quest to integrate baseball, it was time for pride to take over from meekness. And Jackie made sure that younger blacks like myself were soldiers in the struggle.

When I look back at the statistics of the late 1950's and 60's and see the extent to which black players dominated the National League (the American League was somewhat slower to integrate), I know why that was. We were on a mission. And, although Willie Mays, Ernie Banks, Frank Robinson, Willie Stargell, Lou Brock, Bob Gibson and I were trying to make our marks individually, we understood that we were on a collective mission. Jackie Robinson demonstrated to us that, for a black player in our day and age, true success could not be an individual thing.

To players today, however, that's exactly what it is. The potential is certainly there, perhaps more than at any time since Jackie came along, for today's stars to have a real impact on their communities. Imagine what could be accomplished if the players, both black and white, were to really dedicate themselves—not just their money, although that would certainly help—to camps and counseling centers and baseball programs in the inner city.

Some of the players have their own charitable foundations, and I applaud them for that. (I believe Dave Winfield, for instance, is very sincere.) But as often as not these good works are really publicity stunts. They're engineered by agents, who are acting in the interest of the player's image—in other words, his marketability. Players these days don't do anything without an agent leading them every step of the way (with his hand out). The agent, of course, could care less about Jackie Robinson.

The result is that today's players have lost all concept of history. Their collective mission is greed. Nothing else means much of anything to them. As a group, there's no discernible social conscience among them; certainly no sense of self-sacrifice, which is what Jackie Robinson's legacy is based on. It's a sick feeling, and one of the reasons I've been moving further and further away from the game.

The players today think that they're making \$10 million a year because they have talent and people want to give them money. They have no clue what Jackie went through on their behalf, or Larry Doby or Monte Irvin or Don Newcombe, or even, to a lesser extent, the players of my generation. People wonder where the heroes have gone. Where there is no conscience, there are no heroes.

The saddest thing about all of this is that baseball was once the standard for our country. Jackie Robinson helped blaze the trail for the civil rights movement that followed. The group that succeeded Jackie—my contemporaries—did the same sort of work in the segregated minor leagues of the South. Baseball publicly pressed the issue of integration; in a symbolic way, it was our civil rights laboratory.

It is tragic to me that baseball has fallen so far behind basketball and even football in terms of racial leadership. People question whether baseball is still the national pastime, and I have to wonder, too. It is certainly not the national standard it once was.

The upside of this is that baseball, and baseball only, has Jackie Robinson. Here's hoping that on the 50th anniversary of Jackie's historic breakthrough, baseball will

honor him in a way that really matters. It could start more youth programs, give tickets to kids who can't afford them, become a social presence in the cities it depends on. It could hire more black umpires, more black doctors, more black concessionaries, more black executives.

It could hire a black commissioner.

You want a name? How about Colin Powell? He's a great American, a man more popular, maybe, than the President. I'm not out there pushing his candidacy, but I think he would be great for baseball. He would restore some social relevance to the game. He would do honor to Jackie Robinson's name.

It would be even more meaningful, perhaps, if some of Jackie's descendants—today's players—committed themselves this year to honoring his name, in act as well as rhetoric.

Jackie's spirit is watching. I know that he would be bitterly disappointed if he saw the way today's black players have abandoned the struggle, but he would be happy for their success nonetheless. And I have no doubt that he'd do it all over again for them.●

#### MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes of Senate business to discuss Music in Our Schools Month.

Throughout the month of March, which was designated Music in Our Schools Month, the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association [PMEA] promoted public awareness of arts education. On March 11, the Pennsylvania Alliance for Arts Education sponsored the Second Annual Arts in Education Day in Harrisburg, PA. Representatives from PMEA also attended the “SingAmerica” campaign here in Washington, DC, on March 13. In addition to renewing an interest in music, “SingAmerica” sought to restore a sense of pride in our communities.

For years, public schools in Pennsylvania have provided opportunities for children to grow and learn through the arts. Several teachers have observed that studying music has helped children learn to work in groups, to think creatively, and to communicate more effectively. Moreover, music education has helped introduce students to history and cultural studies.

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the teachers who have dedicated their lives to preparing children for the future. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking them for their commitment to improving education.●

#### THE HONORABLE ALMA STALLWORTH

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, the Honorable Alma Stallworth, a truly dedicated public official who recently retired after 18 years of serving the people of northwest Detroit in the Michigan House of Representatives. Representative Stallworth is being honored at a retirement celebration hosted by the Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan and the Black Child

Development Institute Metro-Detroit Affiliate.

Throughout her 18-year career in the Michigan House, Alma Stallworth was widely recognized as a champion of women, children, and minorities. She fought to expand prenatal coverage for pregnant women, increase Michigan's child immunization rate and provide parenting education to teenagers with children. She was an active member of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, as well as a successful fundraiser for the United Negro College Fund, raising more than \$1 million over the past 11 years.

Representative Stallworth was also a leader on issues related to public utilities. She served as chair of the Public Utilities Committee in the Michigan House of Representatives, and was a vice-chair of the Telecommunication and Banking Committee in the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Alma Stallworth's legislative leadership will be missed, but I am confident that she will continue to serve as a champion for those people who often lack a voice in the political process. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Alma on her illustrious career and in wishing her well in her future endeavors.●

#### FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF JACKIE ROBINSON BREAKING BASEBALL'S COLOR BARRIER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay special tribute to a legendary figure in our Nation's history; Jack Roosevelt Robinson. One half century ago today, Jackie Robinson stepped out of the dugout before an Ebbets Field crowd of 30,000 to play first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In doing so, he became the first African-American to play professional baseball in the modern major leagues.

However, Jackie Robinson did not merely break baseball's color barrier, he shattered it in the most spectacular fashion imaginable. He was the first African-American to lead the league in stolen bases, to win the batting title, to play in the All-Star Game, to play in the World Series, to win the Most Valuable Player Award, and to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

As an ardent baseball fan, I marvel at his accomplishments on the field. As an American, I stand in gratitude for all he did for civil rights in this country. The impressive nature of his long litany of baseball firsts is far surpassed by the measure of his exceptional character. To be able to bear the brunt of national adversity and hostility and still perform with such dignity and grace requires a courage far greater than most could summon.

To many, the details of April 15, 1947 are long forgotten. For the record, in the seventh inning Robinson scored the deciding run in a 5 to 3 win over the Boston Braves. When Robinson crossed home plate, it was a victory for his

team, for professional sports, and, indeed, for the entire country. Jackie Robinson was one of those rare individuals who transcended both race and athletics to become an American hero. It is my hope and belief that his legacy today is as powerful as ever. ●

#### JACKIE ROBINSON

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, some of the most pivotal events in U.S. history that have helped eliminate the barriers between white and black Americans have been simple acts that occurred in very common, everyday settings; on a bus, in a diner, and in a school. Today marks the 50th anniversary of one of those events, and it also occurred in a common and unlikely setting—at a baseball game. On April 15, 1947, the Brooklyn Dodgers debuted their new infielder, Jackie Robinson, in a game against the Boston Braves. And by his very presence on that field, American society was changed forever.

Until that day, professional baseball had been segregated for over 50 years, and no African-American in the 20th century had worn a major league uniform. Segregation had denied many fine black players from competing side by side with their white counterparts. It was the dream of many Negro League stars like Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson, and Cool Papa Bell to take the field in a major league park and have the chance to claim their rightful place in the record books alongside Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb. They knew they were good enough, and so did many white baseball executives who saw them play. But until Jackie Robinson, black Americans were kept out of the majors and many of these great players never got the chance to play there.

In 1947, Dodgers' manager Branch Rickey ignored the color line and gave Jackie Robinson a chance to play. Not because he was black, not because he could be a symbol for a change in American society, but because he was a dazzling player who could help the Dodgers win. And he did. In that very first year, Robinson became the National League's Rookie of the Year. In 1949, he would be named the Most Valuable Player. In 10 years, he helped Brooklyn capture six National League championships and one World Series title. He retired with a lifetime batting average of .311 and was named to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

After his rookie season, he was listed second only to Bing Crosby as the most popular man in America. That is a very interesting fact, for even though he clearly captured the hearts and minds of many Americans, and no doubt changed the thinking of many others, there were also those who hated him and let him know it with vicious insults, jeers, and threats of physical violence. On the field opposing ballplayers tried to spike him on the base paths, and pitchers regularly threw fast balls near his head. Even some of his own

teammates asked to be traded when they learned he was being called up from the minors. Off the field he sometimes could not join the rest of the Dodgers in the same hotels or restaurants. Jackie Robinson had to endure it all, because he knew if he fought back, if his confidence and calm were rattled, and if he did not perform to the highest athletic level, it could be years before another minority player would be given the same chance. But he used his courage and ability to succeed on every level, proving himself to be much, much more than just a talented baseball player.

How far we have come in terms of racial equality in the half-century since Jackie Robinson's debut is debatable. Black athletes are now commonplace in professional sports, and some, such as basketball star Michael Jordan, are among the most successful and instantly recognizable figures in the world. Over the weekend, an amazingly-gifted and congenial young man named Tiger Woods became both the first African-American and first Asian-American to win the Masters golf tournament, breaking down another long-held color barrier.

But outside of sports, there are still subtle but daunting barriers that prevent African-Americans, as well as other minorities, from achieving equal status in many facets of our culture. Shortly before his death in 1972, Robinson himself was quoted as saying,

I can't believe that I have it made while so many of my black brothers and sisters are hungry, inadequately housed, insufficiently clothed, denied their dignity, live in slums or barely exist on welfare.

If he were still alive today, it is likely his opinion would be unchanged.

But America is a work in progress and there may always be barriers, large and small, which create inequity in our society. Jackie Robinson was one of the best athletes in the world, and the barrier he broke was one that prevented him and other black athletes from using their talents for their fullest gain. Jackie Robinson faced that barrier with courage, faith, and dignity. He broke it for himself, but even more significantly for all those who have followed. That is why he is a hero and why we celebrate his memory today. Perhaps the lesson we can learn from Jackie Robinson's example is that we must face those areas of discrimination we encounter in our lives, no matter what our racial heritage, with the same courage, faith, and dignity. We may never fully end discrimination but we can continue working together to eliminate the barriers that remain. ●

#### JACKIE ROBINSON

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, today, all of America celebrates the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's courageous entry into major league baseball, an event which foreshadowed and indeed paved the way for the wider integration of American society in the

1950's and 1960's. For the people of Georgia, this celebration has special significance because Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, GA, 78 years ago. Last year, his Georgia roots were honored when the Cairo High School named its baseball stadium Jackie Robinson Field.

The son of a sharecropper and grandson of a slave, Jackie Robinson knew poverty, adversity, and the most overt forms of discrimination. He knew especially the lonely burden of having to break the color line in baseball all by himself. Apart from remarkable athletic abilities, Jackie Robinson possessed extraordinary personal qualities which enabled him to embody the hopes and challenge the prejudices of an entire generation of Americans. He truly met the classic definition of courage—the demonstration of grace under pressure.

Georgians and all Americans honor the history which Jackie Robinson made 50 years ago today. It is clear in retrospect that he did more than open the door of the national pastime to African-Americans. He also helped to open the door of a genuine opportunity society to all Americans. Jackie Robinson believed passionately in the promise of the American dream. Through a lifetime of hard work, personal sacrifice, and commitment to racial harmony, he did as much as any American over the past half century to help make that noble dream a reality. ●

#### RECOGNIZING THE FRONT LINE IRS EMPLOYEE

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, as we debate our tax system and the management of the Internal Revenue Service, I believe we should take time out to recognize a largely unappreciated group of public servants. If there is anyone dreading tax day more than the taxpayer in general, it is the front line IRS employee who is right now trying to handle all of those last minute phone calls and process the bulk of returns that are just now starting to flood in. These people are not the problem, they are the ones who make the system as it exists work in the best way possible. The revenues they collect pay for our national parks, our highways, and our national defense. While we can debate the system at length, I believe we should take a moment today of all days to recognize the hard work done by those front line men and women at the IRS to make our government run. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE TOP 10 SMALL BUSINESSES IN KANSAS CITY

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on Monday, April 21, 1997, the Kansas City MO Chamber of Commerce will honor the 1997 Top 10 Small Businesses of the Greater Kansas City area. The Chamber is an association of almost 3,000 businesses across the 10-county bistate area whose members employ approximately 240,000 people in the Greater