



## 2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 2

January 26, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives PRONSCHINSKE, PETRYK, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG, BRANDTJEN, CABRERA, DALLMAN, DITTRICH, DRAKE, HINTZ, HONG, KERKMAN, KITCHENS, MAGNAFICI, MILROY, MURSAU, L. MYERS, NOVAK, PLUMER, RAMTHUN, J. RODRIGUEZ, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPIROS, SPREITZER, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TRANEL, VRUWINK, KUGLITSCH, BOWEN, EDMING and EMERSON, cosponsored by Senators BRADLEY, L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, COWLES, DARLING, ERPENBACH, FELZKOWSKI, JACQUE, MARKLEIN, PFAFF, SMITH, STROEBEL, BERNIER, KOOYENGA and NASS. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** honoring the life and commemorating the career and accomplishments  
2           of Hank Aaron.

3           Whereas, Henry Louis “Hank” Aaron died at the age of 86 on January 22, 2021,  
4     in Atlanta, Georgia; and

5           Whereas, Hank Aaron was a legendary baseball player and a revered civil  
6     rights icon who overcame racial barriers to become one of the most accomplished  
7     baseball players in history; and

8           Whereas, Hank Aaron was born on February 5, 1934, in Mobile, Alabama, the  
9     third of Herbert and Estella Aaron’s eight children; and

10          Whereas, at age 14, Hank Aaron, was inspired to play baseball professionally  
11     when he heard a speech given in Mobile in 1947 by Jackie Robinson, the first African  
12     American to play in the major leagues; and

13          Whereas, Hank Aaron started playing on semi-professional teams at age 15,  
14     and began his professional career in 1952 at age 18 in the Negro League with the  
15     Indianapolis Clowns; and

1           Whereas, after a brief stint with the Indianapolis Clowns, Hank Aaron began  
2 his minor league career in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in June 1952, where he played for  
3 the Eau Claire Bears for a season; and

4           Whereas, during his season with the Eau Claire Bears, Hank Aaron hit nine  
5 home runs, had a batting average of .336, made the All-Star team, and was named  
6 the Northern League Rookie of the Year; and

7           Whereas, Hank Aaron made his major league debut in 1954, and spent much  
8 of his career playing for the Milwaukee Braves from 1954 until 1966, leading the  
9 team to a World Series Championship in 1957 at the age of 23; and

10           Whereas, Hank Aaron moved with the Braves to Atlanta in 1966, becoming the  
11 first Black player on a major league team in the south; and

12           Whereas, Hank Aaron played his final two seasons with the Milwaukee  
13 Brewers before retiring in 1976, and Aaron's uniform, No. 44, was retired by the  
14 Milwaukee Brewers; and

15           Whereas, of his many accomplishments, Hank Aaron broke Babe Ruth's  
16 all-time home run record on April 8, 1974, with his 715th home run, and set a record  
17 of 755 home runs in 1976 that held until 2007; and

18           Whereas, Hank Aaron was known for his hitting ability, earning the nicknames  
19 "Hammer" and "Hammerin' Hank," becoming the first player to have 3,000 hits and  
20 500 home runs, and receiving the National League Most Valuable Player award in  
21 1957; and

22           Whereas, following his retirement, Hank Aaron became one of the first Black  
23 executives in baseball when he joined the Atlanta Braves as Vice President of Player  
24 Development, and established the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation with  
25 his wife to help underprivileged children; and

1           Whereas, Hank Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, the  
2 first year he was eligible; and

3           Whereas, in 1992, Major League Baseball established the Hank Aaron Award,  
4 given annually to the top offensive player in each league, to honor his achievements;  
5 and

6           Whereas, in 1994, Hank Aaron visited Eau Claire for the unveiling of a statue  
7 of him located outside of Carson Park that depicts Hank as an 18-year-old Eau  
8 Claire Bears player; and

9           Whereas, Hank Aaron was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the  
10 nation's highest civilian honor, by President George W. Bush in 2002 for overcoming  
11 "poverty and racism to become one of the most accomplished baseball players of all  
12 time"; and

13           Whereas, Hank was a loving father and husband and is survived by his wife,  
14 Billye Williams, five children, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
17 Wisconsin Legislature honor the life and accomplishments of Hank Aaron.

18

(END)