



2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

January 27, 2021 - Introduced by Senators BRADLEY, L. TAYLOR, BERNIER, CARPENTER, COWLES, DARLING, ERPENBACH, FELZKOWSKI, JACQUE, MARKLEIN, NASS, PFAFF, SMITH, STROEBEL and KOOYENGA, cosponsored by Representatives PRONSHINSKE, PETRYK, ALLEN, ARMSTRONG, BRANDTJEN, CABRERA, DALLMAN, DITTRICH, DRAKE, HINTZ, HONG, KERKMAN, KITCHENS, KUGLITSCH, MAGNAFICI, L. MYERS, MILROY, MURSAU, NOVAK, PLUMER, RAMTHUN, J. RODRIGUEZ, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPIROS, SPREITZER, TITTL, TRANEL, VRUWINK and THIESFELDT. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

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

18

(END)