

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Baseball is a uniquely American sport and holds the time honored position of America's pastime; and

WHEREAS, Many young African-Americans were drawn to the sport and excelled at playing it but were denied the opportunity to play in the modern American and National Leagues until April 15, 1947; and

WHEREAS, The Negro National League was created in 1920 and became the dominant force in black baseball and a force in American baseball; and

WHEREAS, The following veterans of the Negro National League are joining us in Gainesville May 7th and 8th to tell us of their experiences: Mr. A.J. Jackson of Gainesville; Mr. George Green and Reverend Ulysses Young of Los Angeles, CA; Mr. Clifford Brown, Mr. William Felder, Mr. Walter Gibbons, and Mr. Raydell Maddix of Tampa, FL; Mr. Arthur Hamilton and Mr. Harold O'Hair of Jacksonville, FL, along with others; and

WHEREAS, We all desire to work together both to better understand the challenges facing former Negro League players and to encourage increased participation by African American youths in all levels of baseball in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pegeen Hanrahan, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as

Remembering the Legacy of the Negro League Month

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in learning about and celebrating the contributions of African American baseball players to the cultural, social, and athletic history of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 18th day of April, A.D., 2008.

Pegeen Hanrahan
Pegeen Hanrahan
Mayor

