

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33**

Relating to John Donaldson Day.

Whereas, John Donaldson was an American baseball pitcher who played in a number of barnstorming teams across the Midwest and along the east coast and later in the Negro Leagues in a career that spanned parts of three decades; and

Whereas, Donaldson is a native Missourian who was born in Glasgow, Missouri, on February 20, 1892, and raised there until attending George Smith College in Sedalia, Missouri; and

Whereas, after one year at George Smith College, Donaldson embarked on his professional career in 1912 with the Tennessee Rats, a barnstorming combination of baseball and entertainment; and

Whereas, after one year, he was signed by J.L. Wilkinson for his All Nations team from 1913 to 1917. He averaged almost twenty strikeouts per game and once pitched three consecutive no hitters in 1913; and

Whereas, in 1916, Donaldson also pitched the All Nations team to series victories over the two top black teams, Rube Foster's Chicago American Giants and C.I. Taylor's Indianapolis ABCs. At the time, he was considered the best pitcher in black baseball; and

Whereas, in 1917, he was inducted into military service and served a tour of duty in France with the 365th Infantry during World War I; and

Whereas, upon his return from military service, Donaldson continued to play with two top black eastern teams, the New York Lincoln Giants and the Brooklyn Royal Giants; and

Whereas, in 1920, upon the organization of the Negro National League, Donaldson played with the Kansas City Monarchs during the inaugural season and continued to play for the team intermittently over the next fifteen years; and

Whereas, at the tail end of his career, he formed the John Donaldson All-Stars in 1931 which toured around the country; and

Whereas, after his days as a baseball player ended, he worked as a shipping clerk for the U.S. Post Office and later, upon the color ban being lifted, was the first full-time black talent scout in the Major Leagues when he worked for the Chicago White Sox; and

Whereas, John Donaldson should be recognized for his excellence on the baseball diamond, his service to this country, and being a trailblazer in this state and across the country:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, One Hundred and Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby designate every February 20th as "John Donaldson Day" in Missouri and encourage the citizens of this state to participate in appropriate activities and events to commemorate the life and accomplishments of John Donaldson, one of the best pitchers to play in the Negro Leagues and a member of the inaugural Kansas City Monarchs team; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.