

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVES KLECKLEY, DANAHA Y, FRANKLIN, GEYMANN, GUINN,
AND HENSGENS AND SENATORS JOHNS AND MORRISH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 5, 2015, as Alvin Dark Day at the state capitol and to commend

Alvin Dark posthumously upon his extraordinary life and numerous accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for Alvin Dark to be commended and honored for his extraordinary accomplishments and achievements throughout his well-lived life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dark was a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana; he attended Central School and Lake Charles High School, where he played football, basketball, track, and American Legion baseball; and

WHEREAS, his excellence in sports was widely recognized; he was chosen for the All-Southern and All-State football teams and the All-State basketball team; during his senior year at Lake Charles High School, he played in the state football championship as the tailback for the Wildcats; and

WHEREAS, following his high school graduation, Mr. Dark furthered his education and talent for sports at Louisiana State University where he lettered in football, basketball, track, and baseball; and

WHEREAS, during the 1942-1943 football season, LSU won every game in which Mr. Dark started as quarterback, and he was voted All-Sophomore in the Southeastern conference; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dark was considered a triple threat in football as a runner, passer, and punter; and

WHEREAS, he also played on the Southeastern Conference Championship Baseball team at LSU and was chosen for the All-Conference Baseball team for the Southeastern conference; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1943, Alvin Dark transferred to Southwestern Louisiana Industrial Institute, now known as University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and while playing football there, he was voted All-American in 1944; he also placed first in high jump, second in broad jump, and second in the one hundred yard dash at the Southern AAU track meet; and

WHEREAS, he joined the United States Marine Corps during World War II and entered the Officer Training Program; after attending basic training at Paris Island and after his dutiful service in Pearl Harbor, he played on the All-Service Football team in Hawaii in 1945; and

WHEREAS, after proudly serving his country in World War II, agents from three different professional sports approached Mr. Dark to sign with their teams: the Philadelphia Eagles football team, the Fort Wayne Pistons basketball team, and the Boston Braves baseball team; Mr. Dark decided to continue his love for baseball and signed with the Boston Braves; and

WHEREAS, his baseball career spanned for four decades as a player and manager; he played fourteen years with teams such as the Boston Braves, New York Giants, St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago Cubs, Milwaukee Braves, and Philadelphia Phillies; and

WHEREAS, as an outstanding baseball player, Alvin Dark was named Rookie of the Year in 1947 in the minor leagues and again in 1948 in the major leagues; he played in three World Series, had a lifetime batting average of .289, and was named World Champion in 1954 as the New York Giants shortstop and captain; he was also voted to All-Star teams in 1951, 1952, and 1954; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mr. Dark began his career as a manager with the San Francisco Giants, where he led the team to a National League Pennant and to the World Series in 1962; he also managed the San Diego Padres, Cleveland Indians, Kansas City A's, and the Oakland A's; and

WHEREAS, as manager for the Oakland A's, his team won the World Series in 1974, and Mr. Dark is one of only a few managers to have managed a National League team and American League team in the World Series; he is also the only manager to have managed the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics, both San Francisco Bay area teams, to a pennant; and

WHEREAS, not only was Alvin Dark a player and manager, but he was also involved in the front offices of three clubs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dark had a passion for golf; he was an avid golfer and a five-time winner of the baseball players golf tournament; in 1997 and 1998, he won the South Carolina Senior Golf Tournament; he is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Hall of Fame, and the LSU Hall of Fame, and was also the first recipient of the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award in 1955; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2014, Alvin Dark passed away in his home in Easley, South Carolina, at the age of ninety-two; he was passionate about testifying to the loving grace and forgiveness of his Savior, Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Dark loved his family and was a proud father of his children; he always considered the state of Louisiana as his home; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature wishes to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Alvin Dark, a man whose legacy shall forever endure in the minds and hearts of all who knew and loved him.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, May 5, 2015, as Alvin Dark Day at the state capitol; does hereby commend Alvin Dark posthumously upon his life and numerous accomplishments; and does hereby extend sincere appreciation for the pride and honor that this truly remarkable man has brought to his family, friends, community, state, and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Alvin Dark.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE