

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY REPRESENTATIVE HALL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Juan D'Vaughn Pierre upon his retirement from Major League Baseball after fourteen years of an outstanding career.

WHEREAS, upon the occasion of his retirement, it is appropriate that heartfelt commendations be extended to Juan D'Vaughn Pierre for his remarkable achievements in baseball; and

WHEREAS, born on August 14, 1977, in Mobile, Alabama, Juan D'Vaughn Pierre, who is named after the legendary Dominican Hall of Fame pitcher Juan Marichal, distinguished himself as an extraordinary athlete at an early age; and

WHEREAS, he is a graduate of Alexandria Senior High School in Alexandria, Louisiana; he earned an associate degree from Galveston Junior College in Galveston, Texas, and later attended the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, prior to the start of his professional career, Mr. Pierre played baseball at Galveston College and the University of South Alabama, where he was named the 1998 Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he was drafted by the Colorado Rockies in the Major League Baseball draft, and he made his first Major League Baseball debut on August 7, 2000, as a pinch runner for the Rockies against the Pittsburgh Pirates; soon after, Mr. Pierre became well-known in Major League Baseball; and

WHEREAS, on November 16, 2002, he was traded to play for the Florida Marlins; in the 2003 regular season, he posted a .305 batting average, led the National League in games played, at bats, stolen bases, and sacrifice hits; he also led the Major League with the lowest strikeout percentage; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, when the Florida Marlins captured the title of World Series Champions, Mr. Pierre batted .333 in the World Series Championship game and batted .301 overall in his first playoff experience; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, for the second consecutive year, he led the National League in at bats, while also leading in hits, triples, games played, bunt hits, and infield hits; he was also the only Major League Baseball player to play in every inning of his team's games; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2005, Mr. Pierre was traded to play for the Chicago Cubs, where he would continue on his path of leading the National League in hits, at bats, games played, bunt hits, infield hits, and lowest strikeout percentage; and

WHEREAS, he also played for the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Chicago White Sox, and the Philadelphia Phillies before signing a contract with the Miami Marlins on November 17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his outstanding talent, Mr. Pierre won several awards, including being named the Marlins' most valuable player by the South Chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America in 2003, the James "Cool Papa" Bell Legacy Award from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 2003, and the Roy Campanella Award; and

WHEREAS, throughout his admirable and distinguished Major League Baseball career, Mr. Pierre was widely respected and admired for his extraordinary gifts on and off the field and for his incredible work ethic and determination; and

WHEREAS, Juan D'Vaughn Pierre's phenomenal and successful career as a Major League Baseball player brings great pride to the people of Louisiana and the United States of America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Juan D'Vaughn Pierre upon his retirement from Major League Baseball after fourteen extraordinary years and does hereby extend to him best wishes for success and happiness as he begins the next exciting chapter of his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Juan D'Vaughn Pierre.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES