

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 976 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY WENTLING, BROOKS, MILLARD, LONGIETTI, SONNEY,
ROTHMAN, SCHMITT, READSHAW, DALEY, HOWARD, KORTZ, SAINATO,
KULIK, RAVENSTAHL AND NEILSON, AUGUST 28, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 28, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the baseball life of Danny Murtaugh and supporting his
2 2020 election to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

3 WHEREAS, A native of Chester, Pennsylvania, Danny Murtaugh
4 had his Major League Baseball start with the Philadelphia
5 Phillies in 1941 and led the league in stolen bases despite
6 joining the team mid-season; and

7 WHEREAS, Like many of his day, Mr. Murtaugh's playing career
8 was interrupted by war, being offered the chance to play for the
9 United States Army baseball team in a morale-boosting role,
10 however, he turned down the opportunity and instead joined the
11 combat infantry spending time fighting in Europe before helping
12 with rebuilding efforts in Japan; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh made his way to Pittsburgh in 1948,
14 where he provided a spark to a team that had been struggling;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, As second baseman, Mr. Murtaugh and his partner at
17 shortstop led the league in double plays that year; and

1 WHEREAS, Physical ailments from Mr. Murtaugh's war service
2 cut his playing years short and he transitioned to managing; and

3 WHEREAS, With the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mr. Murtaugh had 1,115
4 managerial wins, which is second on the franchise's all-time
5 list, and most notably he won two World Series championships
6 with the Pirates as distinct underdogs; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1960, the Pirates shocked the New York Yankees in
8 seven games with a dramatic series-ending home run by Bill
9 Mazerowski; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh led the Pirates to victory again in
11 1971 against the widely favored Baltimore Orioles; and

12 WHEREAS, Interestingly, both Casey Stengel and Earl Weaver,
13 the managers Mr. Murtaugh defeated in his World Series
14 appearances, are members of the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

15 WHEREAS, On September 1, 1971, Mr. Murtaugh broke barriers
16 when he fielded an all-minority starting lineup for the first
17 time in Major League Baseball history with starters, including
18 future Hall of Famers Roberto Clemente and Willie Stargell; and

19 WHEREAS, When asked about his all-minority lineup, Mr.
20 Murtaugh remarked, "When it comes to making out the lineup, I'm
21 colorblind, and my athletes know it"; and

22 WHEREAS, From Mr. Murtaugh's winning percentage, World Series
23 victories and league pennants, he fully deserves the crowning
24 achievement of becoming a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame
25 and his statistics are equal to or better than many managers
26 currently in the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh achieved his success in four separate
28 stints over 20 years after being forced to retire for health
29 reasons, yet he could not stay away from baseball, always
30 returning to the Pittsburgh Pirates; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Murtaugh died on December 2, 1976, at 59 years
2 of age, just two months after his final retirement; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh Pirates retired Mr. Murtaugh's number
4 40 on Opening Day in April 1977; and

5 WHEREAS, This year is the 60th anniversary of the 1960 World
6 Series and the Baseball Hall of Fame's Golden Days Era committee
7 is considering candidates who made their mark on the game from
8 1950 to 1969; and

9 WHEREAS, If elected, Mr. Murtaugh would be inducted into the
10 Hall of Fame as Pirates' fans celebrate the 50th anniversary of
11 the 1971 World Series; and

12 WHEREAS, With Mr. Murtaugh's career stretching from Philly to
13 Pittsburgh, his election to the Baseball Hall of Fame would be a
14 great occasion for all Pennsylvanians; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the
16 baseball life of Danny Murtaugh and support his 2020 election to
17 the Baseball Hall of Fame.