



March 3, 2017

The Honorable Marlene Anielski
Chairwoman, State and Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chair Anielski,

As Chairman of the Society for America Baseball Research's Negro Leagues Committee, I recommend that the committee support and pass House Bill 59, which would establish **Moses Fleetwood Walker Day** on October 7th.

As the first African American to briefly play in the Major Leagues in 1884, Walker demonstrated both the devastation of racism and his provocative role as a pioneer in our National Pastime.

Walker achieved collegiate stardom as a student/athlete at Oberlin College. As a mulatto, Walker's attempts to reconcile his heritage were always challenged. In the process he became a gifted athlete. Some noteworthy accolades include:

- An inventor: U.S. Patents #458026, #1348609, #1345813, and #1328408
- An author: *Our Home Colony: A Treatise on the Past, Present, & Future of the Negro Race in America*
- A Hall of Famer: 1991 Inductee to the Ohio Baseball Hall of Fame
- A business owner: The Village of Cadiz's Opera House
- The subject of a stage play: *The Trial of Moses Fleetwood Walker*

Although this Moses failed to lead his people to the promised land of integrated play in the Major Leagues, Walker's historic efforts laid the foundation for Jackie Robinson's debut, some 60 years later.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Larry Lester'.

Larry Lester
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