

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 95

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE POSTHUMOUS INDUCTION OF  
2 LEGENDARY BASEBALL PITCHER BILL FOSTER INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS  
3 HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2003.

4 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports  
5 Hall of Fame has unveiled the Class of 2003, which features the  
6 Posthumous Induction of Bill Foster, famed Negro League Baseball  
7 Pitcher from Alcorn A & M (now Alcorn State), who is a member of  
8 the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and

9 WHEREAS, born in Calvert, Texas, Bill Foster was raised in  
10 Rodney, Mississippi, and is the half-brother of Hall of Fame  
11 founder Rube Foster; and

12 WHEREAS, Bill signed with the Memphis Red Sox in 1923, but  
13 Rube had him traded to the Chicago American Giants, where he  
14 became a reluctant star left-handed pitcher; he pitched in the  
15 Negro Leagues for 15 seasons with the Memphis Red Sox, Chicago  
16 American Giants, Birmingham Black Barons, Homestead Grays, Kansas  
17 City Monarchs, Cole's Chicago American Giants and the Pittsburgh  
18 Crawfords; and

19 WHEREAS, he compiled a career record of 137-62 with 734  
20 strikeouts and 34 shutouts plus a 6-1 mark against white major  
21 league all-stars in a barnstorming tour; he led the Chicago  
22 American Giants to pennants in 1926, 1927 and 1933, including the  
23 1926 Black World Series Championship; and

24 WHEREAS, Bill reportedly won 80 games during the 1926 and  
25 1927 seasons with 26 consecutive victories in 1926 against all  
26 levels of competition; he out dueled rival pitcher and fellow  
27 Baseball Hall of Fame member Satchel Paige in several encounters;



28 he was teammate of Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame member "Cool  
29 Papa" Bell and Josh Gibson, the legendary Negro Leagues home run  
30 hitting catcher; and

31 WHEREAS, as star of the 1933 and 1934 Negro Leagues East/West  
32 All-Star games, Bill Foster played at Commiskey Park in Chicago  
33 before huge crowds; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Foster served as Dean of Men and Head Baseball  
35 Coach at Alcorn A & M (now Alcorn State) from 1960-1970; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Foster passed away in 1978 in Lorman,  
37 Mississippi, and was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame  
38 in Cooperstown, New York, in 1996; and

39 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the life  
40 and career of this outstanding athlete who has brought honor to  
41 his university and to the State of Mississippi:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
43 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the Posthumous Induction  
44 of legendary Negro League Baseball Pitcher Bill Foster into the  
45 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2003.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented at  
47 induction ceremonies to be held on April 4, 2003, in Vicksburg,  
48 Mississippi, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

