

Representative Michael Waltz

Markup Statement

H.R. 8012- Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site Act

H.R. 8012, the Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site Act, designates the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach, Florida, as the “Jackie Robinson Ballpark National Commemorative Site.” Additionally, this bill would add the ballpark to the African American Civil Rights Network and direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a feasibility study to give the site the designation of a National Historic Landmark.

H.R. 8012 honors the location where Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier. He played his first professional game on March 17, 1946, in Daytona Beach, when he played in the then-named Daytona City Island Ballpark. Jackie Robinson then led the Montreal Royals to a minor league championship that same season. The next year, he was promoted to the Dodgers, breaking modern Major League Baseball’s color barrier.

In his book ‘My Own Story’ Jackie Robinson reflected on the importance that this game had, stating “I knew of course, that everyone wasn’t pulling for me to make good, but I was sure now that the whole world wasn’t lined up against me. When I went to sleep, the applause was still ringing in my ears.”

Since that day, Daytona Beach’s ballpark has been a historic landmark and reminder of Jackie Robinson, the Civil Rights Movement, and the integration of modern professional baseball.

We must preserve and honor Jackie Robinson’s legacy and the impact he had on Daytona Beach and America by passing this bill into law to protect and commemorate the Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach so it may live on for generations to come.