

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 38

By: Morgan, Bass and Garrison

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution recognizing Oklahoman Bob Neighbors as
8 the only big league baseball player to lose his life
9 in the Korean War; honoring his memory; and directing
10 distribution.

11
12 WHEREAS, Robert Otis Neighbors was born November 9, 1917, in
13 Talahina, Oklahoma, the son of Leither and Nellie Neighbors. After
14 a year at Oklahoma Baptist University, Bob Neighbors went to Siloam
15 Springs, Arkansas, in 1936 to try out for the Siloam Springs
16 Travelers, who were the St. Louis Browns' affiliate in Arkansas-
17 Missouri League's Class D. Bob made the team and played second
18 base, third base and shortstop during his first year and proved
19 himself competent as a hitter, hitting 16 home runs and driving in
20 86 runs. After another year with the Travelers, which was
21 interrupted with a short break at Abbeville in the Evangeline
22 League, Neighbors was called up by the Browns at the end of the 1937
23 season but did not have an opportunity to play; and
24

1 WHEREAS, Bob Neighbors played the 1938 season at Palestine in
2 the East Texas League and 1939 at Springfield, Illinois, in the
3 Three-I League before being called up again to play for the Browns
4 at the end of the 1939 season. Bob Neighbors' first big league game
5 was September 16, 1939. Bob played in a total of seven games,
6 giving a productive performance. However, Bob Neighbors spent 1940
7 and 1941 playing for the Toledo Mud Hens and the San Antonio
8 Missions; and

9 WHEREAS, in March 1942, Bob Neighbors enlisted in the Army Air
10 Corps and was originally assigned to Maxwell Air Force Base in
11 Montgomery, Alabama, where he was a member and manager of their
12 baseball team. However, Bob Neighbors spent most of the war flying
13 missions in Europe. After the war, Bob stayed in the United States
14 Air Force; and

15 WHEREAS, Bob Neighbors was sent to Korea; and on August 8, 1952,
16 a B-26 Air Force bomber with tail number 44-34698, commanded by
17 Major Bob Neighbors, was shot down over North Korea. None of the
18 crew members survived, making Major Bob Neighbors, former St. Louis
19 Browns shortstop, the only big league baseball player to be killed
20 in the Korean War. Bob Neighbors and other big league professional
21 baseball players who fought during the Korean War were honored at
22 Arlington Cemetery on June 14, 2000.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
24 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

1 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Oklahoman Bob
2 Neighbors as the only big league baseball player to lose his life in
3 the Korean War.

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors the memory of Oklahoman
5 Bob Neighbors and the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country.

6 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Bob Neighbors'
7 brothers, Carl Neighbors of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Morris Dean
8 Neighbors of Skiatook, Oklahoma; his cousin, Tom D. Haines of
9 Oklahoma City; and the Oklahoma History Center.

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