

Assembly Resolution No. 679

BY: M. of A. Zebrowski

CONGRATULATING Ray Negrón upon the occasion of celebrating 50 years as a member of the New York Yankees staff

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ray Negrón upon the occasion of celebrating 50 years as a member of the New York Yankees staff; and

WHEREAS, Ray Negrón's extraordinary story began when he was 17 years old and New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner offered him a job as a batboy after he was caught spray painting a wall at Yankee Stadium; and

WHEREAS, This second chance gave Ray Negrón the opportunity to spend the next five decades as a part of the famed baseball franchise and share his story with others; and

WHEREAS, Committed to his community, Ray Negrón has worked to facilitate hospital visits by Yankee players to terminally ill children and co-founded "Hank's Yanks" with Hank Steinbrenner, a not for profit youth travel baseball team for underprivileged children; and

WHEREAS, Through his writing, Ray Negrón has continued to be a positive influence on children, publishing several children's books that have been featured on best seller lists and in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, including the 2006 International Children's Book of the Year "The Boy of Steel," "The Greatest Story Never Told: The Babe and Jackie," "One Last Time: Goodbye to Yankee Stadium," and "Yankee Miracles: Life with the Boss and the Bronx Bombers"; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his impact on his community and on baseball, Ray Negrón has been included as a member of the International Latino Hall of Fame, the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Hall of Fame, the Ted Williams Hall of Fame, the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame, and has been honored by the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ray Negrón upon the occasion of celebrating 50 years as a member of the New York Yankees staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ray Negrón.