

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 10, 2015

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to urge you to award Yogi Berra the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his commitment to educational excellence, social justice, and respected military service. As the son of Italian immigrants, Pietro and Paolina Berra, Berra is one of the most respected baseball players of all time and is the embodiment of the American dream.

Throughout Berra's impressive 19-year baseball career, he was an All-Star for 15 seasons, named the Most Valuable Player of the American League three times and has appeared in an astounding 21 World Series, including winning 13 World Series championships and catching the only perfect game in a World Series. However, Berra's civic resume reads like his baseball statistics — exceptional — and deserves to be recognized. As a strong advocate for civil rights during a time when Major League Baseball was embracing the first black and Latino players, Berra had an a profound impact in the baseball community and across America. Now, he serves as an ambassador for Athlete Ally, where he champions LGBT rights in sports. Before Berra's time on the baseball diamond, he served his country by enlisting in the U. S. Navy during World War II, where he served as a gunner's mate on the USS Bayfield during the D-Day invasion of France.

Berra has demonstrated an admirable commitment to improving his community and our country as a whole. For instance, in 1959 when the Yankees hosted Yogi Berra Day, he asked that the proceeds help establish a scholarship at Columbia University so future students who didn't have the financial means to attend would be able to receive an outstanding education. Furthermore, he continues to support educational opportunities through the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center located in Montclair, NJ, which supports character education programs that teach the values of respect, sportsmanship and inclusion -- qualities that Berra has demonstrated throughout his life and career.

Over the years we have watched proudly as Berra brought the Yankees numerous victories, continued his leadership as a manager of both the Yankees and Mets, and fought for priorities that bring out the best in our country. As a champion and hero in more ways than can be counted, Berra is an American icon who is deserving of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



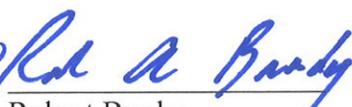
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



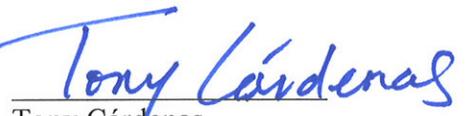
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



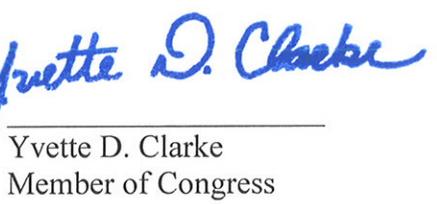
Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



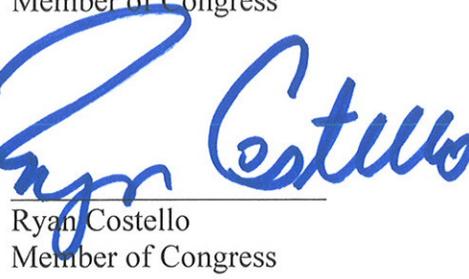
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



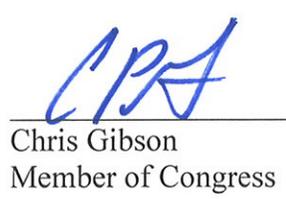
Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress



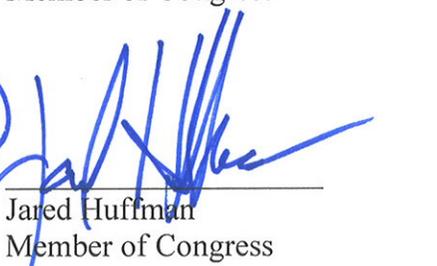
Eliot L. Engel  
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Chris Gibson  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
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Steve Israel  
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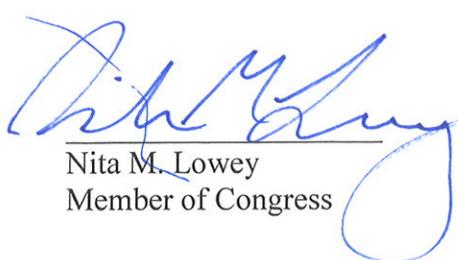
Daniel Kildee  
Member of Congress

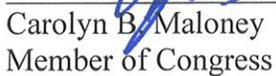


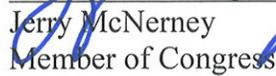
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress

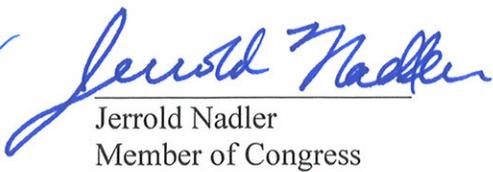
  
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

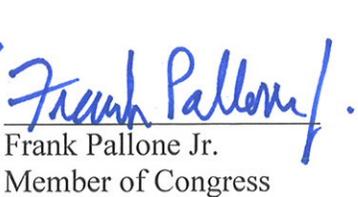
  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

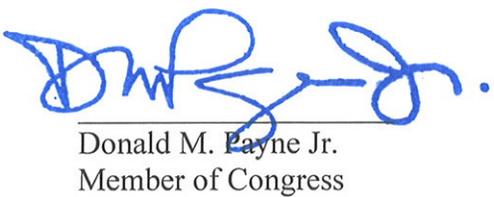
  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

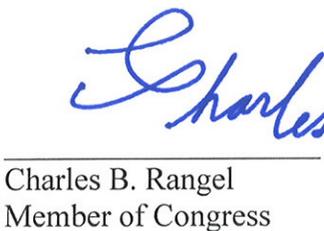
  
Patrick E. Murphy  
Member of Congress

  
Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

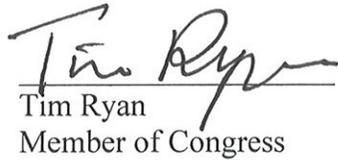
  
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

  
Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Charles B. Rangel  
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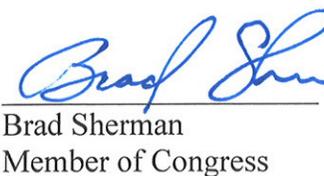
  
Raul Ruiz  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

  
Linda T. Sánchez  
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Kurt Schrader  
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