

# BERNIE WILLIAMS

October 13, 2018

Good day to you all. I am sorry I am unable to be present at this hearing today, but had a long scheduled previous commitment speaking at a conference at Temple University for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, the disease that took my dad's life. I am, however, grateful to be able to submit this statement supporting the New York City Council Resolution calling for the United States Congress to add the site of Roberto Clemente's tragic death to the National Register of Historic Places.

Words will never be able to adequately express the pride I have having been a Major League Baseball player who is a native of Puerto Rico. Like many children growing up in Puerto Rico, I dreamed of being able to be like the great Roberto Clemente.

And as I got older, and progressed to the Major Leagues, playing in New York City, I wanted to not just emulate the player Roberto was, but also the person he was, and everything Roberto Clemente represented off the field.

Clemente stood up for and helped break barriers and open the doors for Latino players in Major League Baseball. Clemente is an icon not just for the great player he was, but for how he led his life, giving back to others, particularly those less fortunate.

Clemente died as he lived, serving others. He died on New Year's Eve in 1972 while embarking on a mission to deliver relief supplies to earthquake-ravaged Nicaragua.

When news of Roberto's death spread around the island, reactions were a combination of shock and sadness, but mostly stunned silence. I was only four, but I realized then that Puerto Rico and America had lost a hero. There were similar reactions in Pittsburgh, New York and across America and around the world.

Today, nearly 50 years after his death, Roberto Clemente is still an idol to Puerto Ricans everywhere and is the gold standard for athletes looking to help others and serve the community.

As Major League Baseball is about to announce the recipient of the annual Roberto Clemente Award at this year's World Series, recognizing the positive impact players have off the field, it is important that we all follow that example and commemorate the life of Roberto Clemente for all generations to come.

By adding the site of Roberto's passing to the National Register of Historic Places, we celebrate his life, his legacy, and establish an inspiring reminder of service above self to current and future generations who visit Puerto Rico, and this site.

Thank you for this opportunity, and for your consideration of this long overdue recognition for the great Roberto Clemente.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernie Williams". Below the signature, the initials "SDB" are written in a smaller, simpler font.

Bernie Williams  
Former Major League Baseball Player  
1991-2006

**STATEMENT BY BERNIE WILLIAMS, RETIRED MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER, IN SUPPORT OF  
THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO ADD THE SITE OF ROBERTO CLEMENTE'S TRAGIC DEATH TO THE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

*Read into record by Thomas C. Brasuell, Vice President, Community Affairs, Major League Baseball  
New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018, Committee Room, City Hall, 1:00 P.M.*

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 285

in favor     in opposition

Date: 10/10/58

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: THOMAS C. BRASHEAR

Address: 243 PARK AVE

I represent: MASON LEAGUE BASEBALL

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆