CIVIL RIGHTS & BASEBALL
A COMPARATIVE TIMELINE

1860

1861: Civil War Starts

January 1, 1863: Emancipation Proclamation

June 19, 1865: Juneteenth

1900

May 18, 1896: Plessy v. Ferguson

1900's: Jim Crow Laws force Black players (Moses Fleetwood Walker, Bud Fowler) from professional teams with white players

1910-1920: Great Migration begins of Blacks to the North

1920

1920: Negro National League formed at the Kansas City YMCA by Andrew 'Rube' Foster

1920s: Harlem Renaissance is considered the golden age of Black culture– literature, music, stage performance and art, as well as the development of the Harlem neighborhood in NYC as the Black cultural mecca

1921: Tulsa Race Massacre

1924: Kansas City Monarchs win the first Negro League World Series

1930

1931: Josh Gibson hits over 70 HR and leads Homestead Grays to 138-6 record

1932: Pittsburgh Crawfords were created and housed in their own ballpark with their own permanent lights

1940

1941: Attack on Pearl Harbor draws the US into WWII

1942: The Tuskegee Airmen were the first Black military aviators in the U.S. Army Air Corps

1942: Satchel Paige strikes out Josh Gibson on three pitches with bases loaded

1947: Larry Doby, becomes the first Black player in the American League

April 15, 1947: Jackie Robinson breaks the color barrier making his debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers becoming the first Black player in Major League Baseball History

1948: Satchel Paige makes Major League debut

1949: Jackie Robinson wins the NL batting title and MVP

1950

1953: Toni Stone becomes the first woman in Black baseball, playing second base for Indianapolis Clowns

1954: Brown v. Board of Education Topeka declared educational segregation unconstitutional and ended separate but equal education

1955: Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus which led to the Montgomery Bus boycott

1960

1960s: Fold of the last Negro Leagues teams. As baseball integrated, the connection can be made to the economic impact and the decline of Black businesses

1962: Former Kansas City Monarch manager Buck O'Neil becomes the majors' first Black Coach with the Chicago Cubs.

July 2, 1964: Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin

1970

August 6, 1965: Voting Rights Act overcame state and local legal barriers that denied Blacks the right to vote under the 15th Amendment

1975: Frank Robinson becomes the Majors' first Black manager.

1980

June 1980: Texas declares Juneteenth a state holiday

2020

June 19, 2020: 155th anniversary of Juneteenth