

State of South Carolina

Proclamation

by

Governor Jim Hodges

WHEREAS, Joseph Jefferson Jackson (1888-1951), known by baseball fans throughout the world as "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, was born and raised in South Carolina, and is one of baseball's greatest players ever; and

WHEREAS, before and after his playing career, Joe Jackson made his home in Greenville, South Carolina, where he was a merchant, youth baseball coach, and respected member of the community; and

WHEREAS, during his professional playing career, Shoeless Joe Jackson was recognized as one of the most talented and popular players of his era, but remained humble despite his stardom; and

WHEREAS, among Shoeless Joe Jackson's achievements in 1,330 games over 13 Major League seasons he had a lifetime batting average of .356 (third all-time), and accumulated 1,772 hits, 873 runs scored, 307 doubles, 168 triples, 785 runs batted in, and 202 stolen bases; and

WHEREAS, in the 1919 World Series Shoeless Joe Jackson batted .375, with a home run, three doubles, six runs batted in, and two stolen bases, and in the field handled thirty outfield chances with five assists and no errors; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, Major League Baseball Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis banished Jackson and seven other members of the Chicago White Sox from organized baseball for life for allegedly accepting bribes to throw the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds in the infamous "Black Sox" scandal; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of Commissioner Landis' decision in 1920, Shoeless Joe Jackson is ineligible for election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and

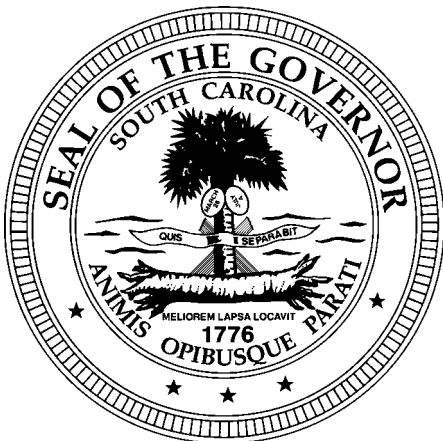
WHEREAS, even generations after his death, Shoeless Joe Jackson remains one of the most publicized sports figures in history and one of South Carolina's most famous athletes; and

WHEREAS, it is time for all South Carolinians to join with Baseball Hall of Famers Tommy Lasorda, Ted Williams, Bob Feller, and others seeking to have Shoeless Joe Jackson reinstated on Major League Baseball's eligible list and elected to the Hall of Fame.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 16, 2002, as

SHOELESS JOE JACKSON DAY

throughout the state in celebration of Jackson's 114th birthday, in recognition of his many contributions to the game of baseball, and in support of his reinstatement as a member in good standing in Major League Baseball.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina