



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

August 13, 2012

Mr. Jack O'Connell  
Secretary and Treasurer  
Baseball Writers of America Association  
Pre-Integration Committee  
c/o National Baseball Hall of Fame  
25 Main Street  
Cooperstown, New York 13326

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams' induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. As one who has greatly impacted the game that we enjoy today, "Doc" Adams should be appropriately honored and his contributions properly recognized.

"Doc" Adams influenced baseball enormously both as a player and a leader who oversaw the standardization of play and definition of rules of the game. As a player on two New York teams attributed with originating the style of play that we observe today – the New York Base Ball Club and the New York Knickerbockers Base Ball Club – Doc "Adams" was instrumental in forming baseball from the ground up. He observed required changes while playing – such as the weight of the baseball and bat and the need for a "short-stop" – and pushed these improvements forward.

By taking steps toward the long-term preservation of baseball, such as a uniform set of rules, Doc "Adams" ensured that baseball could be played throughout the country. As one of three members of a committee, in 1846 he orchestrated the first recorded baseball game between leagues – the Knickerbockers against the New York Base Ball Club. In 1857, as head of the first Base Ball Convention and Committee on Rules and Regulations, he implemented changes such as defining a full game as nine equal innings, establishing 90 feet between bases, and regulating nine players per team. These integral changes – such as the fly-ball out – made the game more exciting, paving the way for the spectatorship that our nation treasures today.

In addition to this role as a founder of baseball, "Doc" Adams was a significant contributor to Connecticut in capacities such as the first president of the Ridgefield Savings Bank, founder of the Ridgefield Library, and a member in the Connecticut General Assembly.

I join those who have honored "Doc" Adams" in the past – from the New York Knickerbockers who bestowed the title of "Nestor of Ball Players" on Mr. Adams in the 1860s to his great grand-daughters who visited with the Hartford Friends of Vintage Baseball Day on Doc

Adams Day September 2011 at the Hartford Base Ball Grounds. Many people around the nation enjoy the contributions he has made, and he should be widely known and celebrated. He put great care into the game of baseball, shaping its legacy so that it lasted beyond the Civil War.

I give my sincerest support for Mr. Adams as an inductee in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and hope you will join me in honoring a man who has given America a beloved institution that has weathered history and spread from New York throughout the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard Blumenthal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" being the most prominent.

Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator