



## Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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### JACKIE ROBINSON MAKES HISTORY 60 YEARS AGO TODAY

*AUTHOR OF NEW BIOGRAPHY OF ROBINSON AT CARTER LIBRARY TOMORROW*

**Atlanta, GA.** - Sixty years ago today, Jackie Robinson made history, becoming the first African-American player signed by an American major league baseball team. It was on this day in 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey announced he had purchased the contract of Jackie Robinson from the Montreal Royals. Robinson broke American baseball's color barrier.

The story of Robinson's first season with the Dodgers is told in the new biography, "**Opening Day**" by Jonathan Eig. It is much more than a baseball story. It is the story of courage and a major step in the American Civil Rights movement.

Eig will discuss Robinson's life and sign copies of his new biography Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. The lecture and book signing are free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Copies of "**Opening Day**" can be purchased at the reading.

*Booklist* describes "**Opening Day**" saying "Eig details the dynamics of Robinson's hard-earned acceptance by teammates, the well-chronicled abuse Robinson took from opposing fans and players, the response of local and out-of-town press, and the impact the season had on Robinson's family and on African Americans. Eig also shows what a flat-out great player Robinson was that season."

For more information, call 404-865-7109 or visit [www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov).

