

Courage Begets Courage...

The year was 1947.

Branch Rickey, the legendary general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, made a fateful phone call to his longtime friend, James A. McLain.

McLain was the president of The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. Rickey served on the company's Board of Directors.

"I'm about to do something that will bring down on my head an avalanche of criticism," Rickey told his old friend. He was about to shatter precedent and introduce the first African American player to big-league baseball.

The player, of course, was Jackie Robinson.

Wanting to shield his friend and the company from any fall-out from his decision, Rickey tendered his resignation, prompting a special meeting of the board.

It was a man named F.W. Lafrentz, the dean of the Guardian Board of Directors, who broke the silence:

"I move to you, Mr. President, that we table Mr. Rickey's resignation...and more power to Mr. Rickey!"

One of the great lessons of history is that courage begets courage. The other, is that doing the right thing always changes the game for the better.

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America congratulates the 2013 Jackie Robinson Foundation Honorees.



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