



HR0487

LRB100 13095 MST 27483 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Jimmy Anthony Piersall, who passed away on June 3, 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Jimmy Piersall was born in Waterbury, Connecticut to John and Mary (Williams) Piersall on November 14, 1929; he was a star basketball and baseball player in high school and was signed by the Red Sox in 1948; and

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WHEREAS, Jimmy Piersall broke into Major League Baseball in 1952; he played for 17 seasons with the Red Sox, Indians, Senators, Mets, and Angels; he was a two-time All-Star and a two-time Gold Glove winner for center field; and

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WHEREAS, Jimmy Piersall was known for clowning around on the field, fighting with teammates and opposing players, and arguing with umpires, but he was also known as an advocate for removing the stigma associated with mental illness; after suffering a nervous breakdown in 1952, he entered psychiatric treatment; he was always open about what he was going through and his journey with what is now known as bipolar disorder which was chronicled in The Saturday Evening Post article titled "They Call Me Crazy - And I Was!", the precursor to his 1955 book "Fear Strikes Out", which was turned into a film in

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1 1957; in 1985, he wrote his memoir, "The Truth Hurts"; and

2 WHEREAS, Jimmy Piersall called White Sox games alongside
3 Harry Carry from 1977 to 1981; he was also a minor league
4 outfield instructor with the Cubs; and

5 WHEREAS, Jimmy Piersall is survived by his wife, Janet
6 Weber Jones Piersall; nine children from his marriage to Mary
7 (Teevan); many grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 mourn the passing of Jimmy Anthony Piersall, and extend our
12 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
13 and loved him; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Jimmy Piersall as an expression of
16 our deepest sympathy.