



HR0630

LRB100 14431 MST 29213 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize Thomas C. "Tom" Padjen  
4 on the culmination of a successful 40-year tenure as head  
5 football coach at Thornton Fractional (T.F.) South High School  
6 in 2016; and

7 WHEREAS, Coach Tom Padjen graduated from T.F. South Class  
8 in 1968; he returned in 1973 as a physical education teacher,  
9 special education teacher, division leader, and coach; he  
10 became head coach in 1977; and

11 WHEREAS, Coach Tom Padjen's teams made the Illinois High  
12 School Association playoffs 21 times, including 19 of his last  
13 24 seasons; he advanced to the state semifinals twice, in 1994  
14 and 2004; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Tom Padjen has mentored numerous successful  
16 college athletes and four NFL players, including Dave Smith, a  
17 member of the Cincinnati Bengals Super Bowl 23 team and Pierre  
18 Thomas, a member of the New Orleans Saints Super Bowl 44  
19 Champions; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Tom Padjen was inducted into the Illinois  
21 High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014; and

1           WHEREAS, The Thornton Fractional Township High School  
2           District 215 Board of Education renamed the South Campus  
3           football field, "Padjen Field", effective October 13, 2017; and

4           WHEREAS, Coach Tom Padjen's brother, Robert "Bob" Padjen,  
5           came to T.F. South in the fall of 1993 and served as the  
6           defensive coordinator under Tom for 25 seasons; Robert's  
7           arrival at T.F. South marked the Rebels ascension into a  
8           perennial south suburban football power; he was inducted into  
9           the Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014;  
10          and

11          WHEREAS, In January of 2017, Coach Bob Padjen took over as  
12          only the fifth head coach in T.F. South history; and

13          WHEREAS, Jim Padjen, Class of 1962; Tom Padjen, Class of  
14          1968; John Padjen, Class of 1972; Bill Padjen, Class of 1976;  
15          Bob Padjen, Class of 1977; Mark Padjen, Class of 1998; Peyton  
16          Padjen, Class of 2012; and Reis Padjen, Class of 2016 have all  
17          graced the gridiron for the Rebels; and

18          WHEREAS, In all, during the 59 seasons in which T.F. South  
19          has participated in competitive football, there has been a  
20          member of the Padjen family either playing or coaching in every  
21          one of those 59 years; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 recognize Coach Tom Padjen on his successful 40-year tenure  
4 with Thornton Fractional South High School and the history of  
5 the Padjen family with the school's football program; and be it  
6 further

7           RESOLVED, That we wish Coach Bob Padjen the best of luck as  
8 he leads the Rebels into the future; and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 presented to Coach Tom Padjen, Coach Bob Padjen, and Thornton  
11 Fractional South High School.