



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor the accomplishments of  
4 residents of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Speed skater Shani Davis won a gold medal in the  
6 2006 Torino Winter Olympics; he finished the Men's 1000 meter  
7 speed skating race in 1:08.89 minutes, 0.27 seconds ahead of  
8 his closest competitor and ahead of 40 other athletes; and

9 WHEREAS, Shani Davis became the first African-American man  
10 to claim a gold medal in Winter Olympic history; and

11 WHEREAS, Shani Davis was born on August 13, 1982 on the  
12 south side of Chicago to Cherie Davis and began his remarkable  
13 career at age two and a half when his mother took him roller  
14 skating at a neighborhood rink; and

15 WHEREAS, Cherie Davis moved her family to the north side  
16 Rogers Park neighborhood when Shani was ten years old so that  
17 Shani could sharpen his skating skills in the Evanston  
18 Speedskating Club at Evanston's Robert Crown Community Center;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The success of Shani Davis is a testament to  
21 community support and especially to the motivation and  
22 sacrifice of Cherie Davis; and

23 WHEREAS, Shani Davis has a distinguished record, winning  
24 five National Age Group Speedskating Championships in 1995,  
25 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2003; the North American Championship in  
26 1999; the 2002 Junior Country Match; the 2002 Junior World  
27 Championships; his third straight U.S. Long Track Championship  
28 during the 2004-2005 season; and the 2005 World Allround  
29 Championship; he also set the World Record for Men's 1000 meter

1 speed skating on November 20, 2005 at the Essent ISU World Cup  
2 Speed Skating at Salt Lake City; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we congratulate Shani Davis on achieving the greatest athletic  
6 accomplishment of winning an Olympic gold medal, while  
7 shattering records and crossing racial divides; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to Shani Davis as an expression of our esteem and  
11 with our best wishes for continued success in the future.