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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize Shawn "The Matrix"
4 Marion, formerly from North Chicago and Waukegan, now of the
5 NBA team the Dallas Mavericks, for his many accomplishments;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Hailing from North Chicago and Waukegan, Shawn
8 Dwayne Marion, who currently plays for The Dallas Mavericks, is
9 widely regarded as one of the most versatile players in the
10 NBA; Shawn was nicknamed "The Matrix" by TNT analyst Kenny
11 Smith during the pre-season of his rookie year for his
12 seemingly bionic athleticism; and

13 WHEREAS, As a child, Shawn grew up in a single parent home
14 with his 3 sisters; his mother, Elaine, is the person that he
15 admires most because of how strong she was raising him and his
16 sisters in a single parent household; his memories of childhood
17 led to the formation of the Shawn Marion Foundation, which
18 assists single-parent families through vocational training and
19 adult scholarships in an effort to help and inspire people who
20 are experiencing situations similar to those Shawn went through
21 as a child; and

22 WHEREAS, After high school Shawn played collegiate

1 basketball at Vincennes University, a junior college in
2 Indiana, before transferring to the University of Nevada-Las
3 Vegas where he majored in Communications and was drafted in the
4 first round and ninth overall in the 1999 NBA Draft by the
5 Phoenix Suns; showing explosive scoring potential and
6 double-digit rebounding ability by his sophomore season, he was
7 selected to the Western Conference All-Star team for the first
8 time in the 2002-03 season; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2004, he was selected to the U.S. Olympic men's
10 basketball team; in 2005, he was named a reserve on the Western
11 Conference All-Star Team and selected to the 2004-05 All-NBA
12 Third Team; that year, he became the first player since David
13 Robinson to average in the top 5 in rebounding and steals since
14 the league began tracking steals in 1973, a feat he repeated in
15 2005-06; and

16 WHEREAS, The 2005-06 NBA season was perhaps the best season
17 of his career; he was the only player in the NBA ranked in the
18 top 20 in points, rebounds, steals, blocks, field goal
19 percentage, and minutes; he finished the season leading the
20 Suns in points per game (21.8), rebounds per game (11.8),
21 blocks per game (1.7), and steals per game (2.0); he also
22 ranked 3rd in efficiency and earned a spot in the NBA All-Star
23 Game for the third time; and

1 WHEREAS, On July 9, 2009, he signed a 5-year, \$39 million
2 contract and was immediately traded to the Dallas Mavericks as
3 part of a four-team swap; he wears the number 0 on his jersey;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, He pledged \$1 million to the Valley of the Sun
6 United Way, which has gone for cancer research, building
7 basketball courts, and supporting the Jr. Suns and Jr. Mercury
8 basketball programs; he helped unveil the renovation of the
9 City of Hialeah's Miami HEAT Learn and Play Center at Bucky
10 Dent Gymnasium in March of 2008 and regularly participates in
11 NBA charity games, including several appearances in Zo's Summer
12 Groove and in the inaugural Steve Nash Foundation Charity
13 Classic; and

14 WHEREAS, He was one of several NBA players and Hollywood
15 celebrities to visit U.S. and coalition troops in Kuwait as
16 part of Project Salute 2003; in September of that year he also
17 had a basketball court named and dedicated in his honor at the
18 Carl Hayden Community Center in Phoenix; after basketball, he
19 would like to travel around the world, coach high school
20 basketball, and start his own business; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
23 we recognize Shawn Marion for all his work both on and off the

1 basketball courts and for his work helping others; and be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Shawn "The Matrix" Marion as a symbol of our
5 respect and esteem.