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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Chicago White Sox legend  
4 Billy Pierce for his baseball career and continuing  
5 humanitarian work; and

6           WHEREAS, Billy Pierce was born in Detroit on April 2, 1927;  
7 he played baseball for Highland Park (Michigan) High School; he  
8 came to the Chicago White Sox in a trade with the Detroit  
9 Tigers on November 10, 1948; and

10           WHEREAS, During his major league career, he accumulated the  
11 following awards and stellar statistics: 211 wins; 1,999  
12 strikeouts; 193 complete games; a 3.27 earned run average; 38  
13 shutouts; and 5 one-hitters; he is the White Sox career leader  
14 in strikeouts with 1,796; he was the starting pitcher for the  
15 American League in the 1953, 1955, and 1956 All-Star games, and  
16 was a member of the American League All-Star team in 1953,  
17 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, and 1961; he was the 1956 and  
18 1957 Sporting News Pitcher of the Year; he accumulated more  
19 wins than any other pitcher for the Chicago White Sox during  
20 the 1950s; his 182 wins are the most wins of any lefty in White  
21 Sox history; he pitched 39 and 2/3 consecutive scoreless  
22 innings for the White Sox in 1953; in 1955, he had an earned  
23 run average of 1.97; with the exception of 1954, he had at

1 least 14 wins every season from 1951 to 1960; and

2 WHEREAS, He is considered to be one of the greatest  
3 pitchers in Chicago White Sox history; in addition to his 7  
4 all-star selections in the 13 years he spent with the White  
5 Sox, he won 186 games and struck out 1,796 batters; as a member  
6 of the 1959 American League Champion White Sox, he threw 4  
7 scoreless innings out of the bullpen during the World Series;  
8 he was also a member of World Series teams in Detroit in 1945  
9 and San Francisco in 1962; in the 1962 3 game National League  
10 playoff against the Los Angeles Dodgers, he was the winning  
11 pitcher in game one over Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax, throwing a  
12 3-hit shutout and saving game 3 by pitching a perfect ninth  
13 inning; in game 6 of the 1962 World Series, he again only gave  
14 up 3 hits in a complete game victory over Hall of Famer Whitey  
15 Ford and the New York Yankees, forcing a seventh game; he  
16 retired from baseball in 1964; and

17 WHEREAS, He continues to serve as an ambassador for the  
18 White Sox organization, appearing at various community events  
19 on its behalf; and

20 WHEREAS, He is also known for his continuous work raising  
21 money for the Chicago Baseball Cancer Charities, raising over  
22 \$13 million for the organization, which has gone toward cancer  
23 patient care, education, and research programs; and

1           WHEREAS, He played his last 3 seasons with the Giants, but  
2 moved his family back to Chicago, where he owned an automobile  
3 dealership for 2 years, worked as a stockbroker, and was an  
4 unofficial scout for the White Sox; he later worked for and  
5 retired from Continental Envelope Company; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1987, the Chicago White Sox retired his number  
7 19; upon Nellie Fox's selection to the National Baseball Hall  
8 of Fame, the Nellie Fox Society was renamed the Billy Pierce  
9 Society, in part to create awareness of the fact that Billy  
10 Pierce belongs in the National Baseball Hall of Fame; in 2007,  
11 a bronze likeness of Billy Pierce was unveiled at U.S. Cellular  
12 Field; and

13           WHEREAS, He and his wife of over 60 years, Gloria, have 3  
14 children, Bill, Patti, and Bob; and 5 grandchildren; therefore,  
15 be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we declare May 16, 2012 as Billy Pierce Day in the State of  
19 Illinois in honor of his baseball career and continuing  
20 humanitarian work; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Billy Pierce as a symbol of our respect and  
2 esteem.