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LRB104 21753 RMO 37417 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the University of Illinois women's wheelchair
4 basketball team, the Fighting Illini, on its historic
5 2025-2026 season; and

6 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois women's wheelchair
7 basketball team achieved an outstanding third-place finish at
8 the 2026 National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)
9 National Championships; and

10 WHEREAS, The women's wheelchair basketball team
11 represented the University of Illinois Division of Disability
12 Resources and Educational Services, which is home to the
13 world's original and oldest collegiate wheelchair basketball
14 program and has a proud 77-year history of leadership,
15 excellence, and innovation in the sport; and

16 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois wheelchair basketball
17 program is widely recognized as the birthplace of collegiate
18 wheelchair basketball and played a foundational role in the
19 development and growth of the NWBA; and

20 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois women's wheelchair
21 basketball team made history in 1970 as the first all-women's

1 wheelchair basketball team in the world, further advancing
2 opportunities for women in adaptive athletics; and

3 WHEREAS, The achievements of the women's wheelchair
4 basketball team reflect the dedication, perseverance,
5 sportsmanship, and excellence of the student-athletes,
6 coaches, and support staff who represent the University of
7 Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, The accomplishments of the University of Illinois
9 wheelchair basketball team bring great pride to the State of
10 Illinois and exemplify the strength and impact of inclusive
11 collegiate athletics; and

12 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini are led by Head Coach
13 Stephanie Wheeler, Assistant Coaches Matt Poland, Marlee
14 Wagstaff, and Eubin Ham, and Athletic Trainer Jan Wenke; and

15 WHEREAS, The members of the Fighting Illini team include
16 players Amelia Stotts, Mary Wagstaff, Kylee Koenig, Ava
17 Finger, Bethany Johnson, Morgan McCammon, Kendall Speaks,
18 Josie Portell, Maya Campbell, Abbie Counts, and Ritvika
19 Kondakrindi and managers Rachel Divan, O'Tice Lewis, James
20 Shafer, Mia Lozada, VazQues Johnson, Larry Parker, and
21 Cavaurion Vinson; and

1 WHEREAS, The Fighting Illini's achievements have
2 reinforced the reputation of the University of Illinois as a
3 powerhouse in college basketball; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
6 University of Illinois women's wheelchair basketball team, the
7 Fighting Illini, on its historic 2025-2026 season, and we wish
8 the team many more successful seasons; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 presented to the University of Illinois women's wheelchair
11 basketball team as a symbol of our respect and esteem.