



HR0913

LRB100 21128 MST 37065 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Jim Thome was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on January 24, 2018 as a first ballot inductee, after an illustrious 22-year career in Major League Baseball (MLB); and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Over the course of his baseball career, Jim Thome hit 612 home runs, batted in 1,699 runs, had a batting average of .276, and a total of 2,328 hits; he was a five time all-star, Silver Slugger Award Winner, American League Comeback Player of the Year, Roberto Clemente Award Winner, and National League home run leader in 2003; he has been inducted into both the Cleveland Indians Hall of Fame and the Philadelphia Phillies Hall of Fame; and

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, Jim Thome was born in Peoria on August 27, 1970, the youngest of five children, all of whom were athletic and involved in sports; and

15

16

17

WHEREAS, Jim Thome's earliest baseball instruction came from his father and older brothers before he began to play American Legion Baseball for Bartonville Limestone Post 979; and

18

19

20

21

WHEREAS, Jim Thome attended Limestone High School, where he

1 received all-state honors in both basketball and baseball; he
2 continued his career in both basketball and baseball at
3 Illinois Central College, where he was drafted by the Cleveland
4 Indians in the 13th round of the 1989 MLB draft; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Thome's 22-year professional career began
6 with the Cleveland Indians in 1991, where he was an offensive
7 leader for a team that went to two World Series in the mid-90s;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Thome continued his career by playing for the
10 Philadelphia Phillies from 2003 to 2005 until he was traded to
11 the Chicago White Sox after the 2005 season; and

12 WHEREAS, Jim Thome had a very successful career for the
13 Chicago White Sox, where in his first season he set a team
14 record for most home runs in the month of April, and also a
15 Major League Baseball record by scoring in each of Chicago's
16 first 17 games; and

17 WHEREAS, On September 16, 2007, with his father and several
18 other family members in attendance, Jim Thome joined the 500
19 home run club with a walk-off home run against the Los Angeles
20 Angels; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Thome spent the 2009 season with the Los

1 Angeles Dodgers before signing with the Minnesota Twins, where
2 he hit numerous home runs, including the longest ever at Target
3 Field, and became only the ninth MLB player to hit at least 600
4 home runs in his career; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Thome spent the 2011 season with the Cleveland
6 Indians, where he became the Indians' all-time home run leader,
7 and it was announced that a statue of him would be erected,
8 which was unveiled in 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Thome spent the 2012 season with the
10 Philadelphia Phillies, where he became the fourth MLB player to
11 hit 100 home runs with three different teams and set the new
12 record for most walk-off home runs during a career in the
13 modern era with 13; and

14 WHEREAS, Jim Thome spent the remainder of the 2012 season
15 with the Baltimore Orioles, where he surpassed Sammy Sosa to
16 become the MLB player with the eighth highest number of home
17 runs in a career with 612, a statistic which still stands
18 today; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Thome was well known in MLB for several
20 memorable traits, such as wearing high socks, which his team
21 donned in the 1997 season all the way to the World Series, and
22 his unique batting stance that featured him pointing his bat to

1 centerfield prior to the pitch; and

2 WHEREAS, Even more memorable than those traits, Jim Thome's
3 personality has been the subject of much praise across the MLB;
4 a former teammate called him the "nicest, gentlest, kindest guy
5 you will ever meet ... " and his positivity was cited as one of
6 the main reasons for his resigning in 2012 with the Phillies;
7 he was known for frequently signing autographs for fans and for
8 his endless patience; in Philadelphia, magazine sportswriter
9 Stephen Silver wrote of Thome: "It's not just the numbers.
10 Thanks to his gregarious personality, Thome is the rare athlete
11 who played in several cities and was beloved everywhere he
12 went. I saw the Twins and Phillies play each other in
13 Philadelphia when Thome was with the Twins, and the same two
14 teams in Minnesota two years later when Thome was a Phillie,
15 and the opposing crowd cheered Thome both times, even when he
16 hit home runs for the road team. Thome was similarly loved in
17 his long stints in Cleveland and Chicago, as well as shorter
18 runs in Los Angeles and Baltimore."; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Thome and his wife, Andrea, have three
20 children, Lila, Grace, and Landon, and currently reside in Burr
21 Ridge; and

22 WHEREAS, Jim Thome is known for his many philanthropic
23 works to help provide help to communities in the cities where

1 he played; in recognition of his efforts, he was given the
2 Marin Miller Man of the Year Award in 2001 and 2004 and the Lou
3 Gehrig Memorial Award in 2004; he and his wife are avid
4 supporters of Children's Home & Aid, a child and family service
5 agency, which raises money for the Children's Hospital of
6 Illinois; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 recognize Jim Thome and everything that he has accomplished
10 throughout his distinguished career, and we respect and admire
11 his continued philanthropic efforts towards the sport and
12 communities he loves; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we declare May 9, 2018 as "Jim Thome Day" in
14 the State of Illinois as a sign of our esteem and respect; and
15 be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Jim Thome as a symbol of our respect and esteem.