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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is necessary to recognize those who are  
3 dedicated to the betterment of the State of Illinois and their  
4 communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Jack Wayne Sikma was born in Kankakee to Grace  
6 and Clarence Sikma; he lived in rural Wichert while growing up  
7 and attended St. Anne High School; and

8 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was a guard his first three years of  
9 high school, before his height reached 6'10" as he entered his  
10 senior season; with the nickname "the Wichert Wonder", he led  
11 the St. Anne High School Cardinals to a fourth-place finish in  
12 the 1974 Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class A boys  
13 basketball tournament, scoring 100 points in his four  
14 tournament games; and

15 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma played collegiate basketball at  
16 Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington; he majored in  
17 accounting and graduated in 1977; after being heavily  
18 recruited by many Division I schools, he decided to enroll at  
19 Illinois Wesleyan, swayed by his close relationship with  
20 Illinois Wesleyan Coach Dennie Bridges and being able to  
21 immediately play as a freshman; he also liked that Illinois  
22 Wesleyan had several Division I schools on their schedule; and

1           WHEREAS, At Illinois Wesleyan University, Jack Sikma was a  
2 three-time National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA  
3 Division III) All-American and averaged 27.0 points and 15.4  
4 rebounds as a senior; he was chosen as the College Conference  
5 of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) Most Outstanding Player for  
6 three straight years; he was later inducted into the D3 Hall of  
7 Fame (2012) and the Small Schools Basketball Hall of Fame  
8 (2017) and was a member of the D3 50th & 75th All-Anniversary  
9 Teams; he was also a two-time Academic All-American and was  
10 selected to the CoSIDA Academic All-American Hall of Fame; and

11           WHEREAS, Jack Sikma remains Illinois Wesleyan University's  
12 all-time leading scorer and rebounder; he averaged 21.2 points  
13 (2,272 career points) and 13.1 rebounds (1,405 career  
14 rebounds); in each of his last three seasons, the Titans won  
15 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin Conference  
16 Championships and advanced to the National Association of  
17 Intercollegiate Athletics Tournament; and

18           WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was a first round pick, drafted with  
19 the eighth overall selection in the 1977 NBA draft by the  
20 Seattle SuperSonics; due to the relatively small size of his  
21 alma mater, he was considered an unknown quantity compared to  
22 the "established, well-publicized stars" taken before him; and

1           WHEREAS, As a rookie in 1977-1978, Jack Sikma averaged  
2           10.7 points and 8.3 rebounds, as the SuperSonics played in the  
3           NBA Finals, losing to the Washington Bullets in seven games;  
4           he was named to the NBA All-Rookie Team in 1978; and

5           WHEREAS, The next season, 1978-1979, Jack Sikma averaged  
6           15.6 points and 12.4 rebounds and became an All-Star; he  
7           averaged a double-double of 14.8 points and 11.7 rebounds in  
8           the playoffs and, along with teammates Dennis Johnson, Gus  
9           Williams, and Paul Silas, defeated the Washington Bullets and  
10          Wes Unseld in an NBA Finals rematch; his final free throws were  
11          the last points scored by the SuperSonics to win the series;  
12          and

13          WHEREAS, In 1984, Jack Sikma signed a five-year contract  
14          with the SuperSonics; General Manager Les Habegger remarked,  
15          "After careful consideration, we concluded that we could look  
16          far and wide and never obtain another center of his caliber.";   
17          he continued his All-Star caliber play but was forced to  
18          undergo finger surgery in 1985; and

19          WHEREAS, In 1986, Jack Sikma and Seattle's 1988 second  
20          round draft pick were traded to the Milwaukee Bucks in  
21          exchange for Alton Lister and Milwaukee's first-round draft  
22          picks in 1987 and 1989; Milwaukee Coach Don Nelson felt that  
23          with this trade he gained the missing piece of a team that had

1 frequently dominated the regular season before being exposed  
2 at the center position in the playoffs; Milwaukee struggled  
3 with injuries leading to the playoffs; and

4 WHEREAS, In the initial playoff series, Jack Sikma scored  
5 11 points in the fourth quarter to get past Charles Barkley and  
6 the Philadelphia 76ers; in the next series, the Bucks were  
7 defeated by the Boston Celtics in a seven-game series, in  
8 which he was one of eight players fined for fighting or leaving  
9 the bench to join the brawl; and

10 WHEREAS, During the pre-season, Jack Sikma and the Bucks  
11 participated in the diplomatically-oriented Basketball Open, a  
12 round-robin, exhibition tournament that included a match with  
13 the U.S.S.R. national team and the Italian national team; and

14 WHEREAS, With the Bucks, Jack Sikma showed his superb  
15 shooting skills and made the playoffs every year for the  
16 remainder of his career; despite being the team's center, he  
17 was one of the most effective free throw shooters in the league  
18 and would shoot technical free throws for the team; he set a  
19 then-record of 51 games without a free throw miss; his  
20 late-career three point shooting was cited as a sign of  
21 league-wide adoption; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1989, Jack Sikma faced his former team in what

1 was then the longest game in the shot clock era, winning in the  
2 fifth overtime; he remained an effective big man into his  
3 final season, playing 77 regular season games and three  
4 playoff games, including twice grabbing 14 rebounds in a game;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In five seasons and 392 games with the Bucks,  
7 Jack Sikma averaged 13.4 points, 7.9 rebounds, and 2.9  
8 assists, shooting 45% from the floor and 88% from the line; and

9 WHEREAS, With the SuperSonics, Jack Sikma was selected to  
10 seven consecutive All-Star Games, from 1979 to 1985; in nine  
11 seasons and 715 games with Seattle, he averaged a  
12 double-double of 16.8 points, 10.8 rebounds, along with 3.3  
13 assists, 1.1 steals, and 1.0 blocks, shooting 47% from the  
14 field and 83% from the line; and

15 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma was a pioneer as one of the earliest  
16 sharp-shooting big men, a role that would become common after  
17 the turn of the 21st century; as a center, his distinct shot  
18 and uncharacteristic accuracy allowed him to play a role  
19 outside of the paint; his signature Sikma-1/Sikma-2 moves were  
20 key to future agile centers; instructional coach Pete Newell  
21 wrote on Sikma's signature move in his 2008 book, "Playing  
22 Big" as "baseline moves for loose defenses"; towards the end  
23 of his career, where his lack of athleticism prevented him

1 from using his eponymous move and no other big men appeared to  
2 be able to replicate it, he stated that coaches were inquiring  
3 about the technique even though he believed it would be  
4 defunct upon his retirement; and

5 WHEREAS, Jack Sikma's overall strength and height,  
6 combined with his shooting ability and rebounding, became a  
7 more common prototype long after his retirement, with  
8 proteges like Yao Ming and Kevin Love becoming quality  
9 players in the NBA; on a January 2019 NBA TV segment, former  
10 players Chris Webber, Isiah Thomas, and Kevin McHale discussed  
11 his unexpected influence on modern-day basketball play with a  
12 segment entitled "Jack Sikma's moves still being used today"  
13 and focused on common moves taller players have since adopted  
14 to utilize their shooting and passing abilities; the "stretch  
15 5" has since become common in the NBA, with the number of three  
16 pointers made by centers sharply increasing; his moves remain  
17 widely taught in amateur basketball, including being one of  
18 College Basketball Hall of Fame coach Bo Ryan's five required  
19 skills for his team's big men, being cited by local girls'  
20 basketball coaches in 2019, and being strongly touted by  
21 college players born well after his retirement; therefore, be  
22 it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
24 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of  
2 Illinois Route 1 from Wichert Road to St. Anne as the "Honorary  
3 Jack Sikma Road"; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
5 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
6 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
7 giving notice of the name of the "Honorary Jack Sikma Road";  
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 presented to Jack Sikma and the Secretary of the Illinois  
11 Department of Transportation.