



HR0227

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Saturnino Orestes Armas Minoso Arrieta, known in  
3 the United States as Minnie Minoso, was born in Perico, Cuba;  
4 his birth date is often given as having been November 29, 1925;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, After sharpening his baseball skills in Havana,  
7 Minnie Minoso emigrated to the United States in 1946, signing  
8 successively with the New York Cubans and the Cleveland  
9 Indians; and

10           WHEREAS, Grace Comiskey's team traded for Minnie Minoso on  
11 April 30, 1951, and on May 1, 1951, he became the first black  
12 player to take the field in the uniform of the Chicago White  
13 Sox, and the first black major leaguer in Chicago; he hit a  
14 home run in his first at-bat; and

15           WHEREAS, Minnie Minoso's play continued at a very high  
16 level throughout the 1951 season, leading to his finishing as a  
17 strong second in the balloting for 1951 Rookie of the Year  
18 honors; and

19           WHEREAS, Minnie Minoso was one of the baseball greats of  
20 the 1950s, named to 9 All-Star teams; he was the awardee of the  
21 inaugural Gold Glove Award for left field in 1957; and

1           WHEREAS, Orlando Cepeda paid tribute to Minnie Minoso as  
2           "the Jackie Robinson for all Latinos; the first star who opened  
3           doors for all Latin American players. He was everybody's hero.  
4           I wanted to be Minoso. Clemente wanted to be Minoso."; and

5           WHEREAS, After his days as a full-time player ended in  
6           1964, Minnie Minoso never abandoned his love of the game,  
7           becoming known as "Mr. White Sox"; and

8           WHEREAS, Minnie Minoso retained close ties with the Chicago  
9           White Sox organization and the families that had owned the  
10          club; his love of the game led to a unique honor being bestowed  
11          upon him, when he re-signed with the Chicago White Sox in 1976  
12          and 1980 in order to become the second player in major league  
13          history to wear a uniform and appear in a lineup in 5  
14          successive decades; and

15          WHEREAS, Minnie Minoso was signed to appearances with the  
16          St. Paul Saints in 1993 and 2003, thus becoming the only player  
17          in baseball history to take the field in 7 successive decades;  
18          and

19          WHEREAS, During his lifetime, Minnie Minoso was further  
20          honored as one of the all-time greats of the Chicago White Sox,  
21          with his uniform number 9 retired in 1983 and a statue of him

1 erected at U.S. Cellular Field on "Minnie Minoso Day",  
2 September 19, 2004; by this time, the black Cuban-American had  
3 become one of the last living landmarks of the integration era  
4 of Major League Baseball; and

5 WHEREAS, The ageless Minnie Minoso, a pioneer on many  
6 different levels of American life, passed away on March 1, 2015  
7 in Illinois, the state he had come to call home; therefore, be  
8 it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
11 mourn the death of Chicago White Sox great Saturnino Orestes  
12 Armas Minoso Arrieta; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 presented Minnie Minoso's widow, Sharon Rice; to Rick Hahn, the  
15 General Manager of the Chicago White Sox; and to Jerry  
16 Reinsdorf, the Executive Chairman of the Chicago White Sox.