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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives would like to congratulate Chicago Cubs
4 manager Joe Maddon on being named Major League Baseball's 2015
5 National League Manager of the Year by the Baseball Writers'
6 Association of America for leading his team to achieve
7 tremendous accomplishments this year; and

8 WHEREAS, Joseph John "Joe" Maddon was born in Hazleton,
9 Pennsylvania on February 8, 1954 to Joe and Albina Maddon; and

10 WHEREAS, Joe Maddon played baseball and football for
11 Lafayette College located in Easton, Pennsylvania; he
12 graduated in 1976 and pursued a career in baseball shortly
13 thereafter; and

14 WHEREAS, Although Joe Maddon signed a minor league contract
15 with the then-California Angels organization as a catcher, he
16 would not make it to the higher echelons of the organization as
17 a player; however, he proved to have a different calling and a
18 more important role to play by coaching, scouting, and managing
19 for the Angels for 31 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Joe Maddon has enjoyed much success throughout his
21 storied managerial career in Major League Baseball (MLB); after

1 becoming the Tampa Bay Devil Rays (later named the Tampa Bay
2 Rays) manager in November of 2005, he was determined to help
3 turn around a struggling team; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2008, Joe Maddon successfully led the Tampa Bay
5 Rays to their first winning season, their first American League
6 East Championship, and their first American League
7 Championship pennant - ultimately reaching the World Series,
8 where they lost to the Philadelphia Phillies; for his
9 revolutionary transformation of a down-on-its luck baseball
10 team to a World Series contender, he was awarded the American
11 League Manager of the Year Award, the first of his career (his
12 second would come in the Tampa Bay Rays' 2013 season); and

13 WHEREAS, Joe Maddon would continue to lead a championship
14 caliber team in the Tampa Bay Rays in the following years,
15 reaching the post-season in 2010, 2011, and 2013; after 9
16 seasons of managing Tampa Bay, he amassed an overall winning
17 record of 754 wins and 705 losses; and

18 WHEREAS, After the 2014 season, Joe Maddon decided to end
19 his tenure with the Rays and pursue other opportunities; on
20 November 2, 2014, the Chicago Cubs announced him as their new
21 manager; he brought with him not only a new-found sense of
22 hope, but, perhaps more importantly, a stellar resume and
23 proven track record of success; and

1 WHEREAS, With Joe Maddon joining a new team came new
2 opportunities for both the 'skipper' and the historic Cubs
3 franchise; after years of rebuilding, readjusting, and
4 renewing the ball club, general manager Theo Epstein and Cubs
5 fans everywhere believed that a key piece of the Cubs' winning
6 equation had been found; and

7 WHEREAS, The young Chicago Cubs team, under the direction
8 of Joe Maddon, went on to post a record of 97 wins and just 65
9 losses - a record good enough to put them at third best in MLB;
10 they successfully defeated their division rival, the
11 Pittsburgh Pirates, in a one-game wild card playoff bout to
12 earn a place in the National League Division Series; and

13 WHEREAS, The Cubs then went on to play the National League
14 Division Series against their archrivals, the St. Louis
15 Cardinals; after a heated series, the Cubs proved victorious
16 and went on to face the New York Mets in the National League
17 Championship Series (NLCS) - a feat that had not been
18 accomplished by the Cubs since the memorable 2003 season; while
19 the season would end with the NLCS this year, the Cubs proudly
20 displayed excellent character and will - a testament to manager
21 Joe Maddon; and

22 WHEREAS, The 2015 season was the first time since 2008 that

1 the Cubs managed to reach the playoffs; the Cubs, made up of a
2 medley of young, salubrious talent, has given Cubs fans
3 everywhere a renewed reason to root on the team; manager Joe
4 Maddon is very much a reason for this; and

5 WHEREAS, For his demonstrated efforts and proven
6 leadership with the 2015 Chicago Cubs, Joe Maddon, received 18
7 of 30 possible first-place votes from the Baseball Writers'
8 Association of America, and was the only manager named on every
9 one of the ballots cast for National League Manager of the
10 Year; he now joins Jim Frey (1984), Don Zimmer (1989), and Lou
11 Piniella (2008) on the short list of Cubs managers to win such
12 a prestigious award; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 congratulate Chicago Cubs Manager Joe Maddon for being named
16 Major League Baseball's National League Manager of the Year and
17 wish him and his ball club continued success in their pursuits
18 of a World Series championships in the years to come; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 delivered to Chicago Cubs Manager Joe Maddon as a symbol of our
22 appreciation.