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LRB099 12947 MST 36807 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, James Howard "Jim" Thome played for 22 seasons  
3 from 1991 to 2012 for 6 Major League Baseball teams, including  
4 the Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago White  
5 Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers, Minnesota Twins, and Baltimore  
6 Orioles; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Thome was born to parents Joyce and Charles  
8 Thome and raised in Peoria County; he began playing baseball  
9 with the West Peoria Little League and then moved on to  
10 Limestone Community High School in Bartonville, where he  
11 achieved All-State honors as a baseball shortstop; following  
12 his high school graduation, he played baseball at Illinois  
13 Central College in East Peoria for one season before being  
14 drafted by the Cleveland Indians in 1989; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Thome officially retired from the Cleveland  
16 Indians in 2014, accumulating a .276 batting average, 2,328  
17 hits, 612 home runs, and 1,699 runs batted in; he is the 8th  
18 player in baseball history to reach 612 home runs; and

19 WHEREAS, Jim Thome accumulated the following career  
20 highlights: 5-time All Star in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2004, and  
21 2006, the Silver Slugger Award in 1996, American League  
22 Comeback Player of the Year in 2006, the Roberto Clemente Award

1 in 2002, and the National League home run champion in 2003; he  
2 was inducted into the Greater Peoria Area Sports Hall of Fame  
3 in 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Jim Thome is known for his positive attitude and  
5 outgoing personality as well as his philanthropic activities,  
6 which have earned him 2 Marvin Miller Man of the Year Awards  
7 and the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award; he was also known for his  
8 willingness to sign autographs for fans; and

9 WHEREAS, Jim Thome now works in an executive position with  
10 the Chicago White Sox; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
13 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Illinois Route 24,  
14 beginning at the intersection of South Adams Street and  
15 Illinois Route 24 in Bartonville and ending at the intersection  
16 of Griswold Street and Route 24 in Peoria, as the "Jim Thome  
17 Highway"; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, The Illinois Department of Transportation is  
19 requested to erect at suitable locations, as designated by the  
20 James Howard Thome Committee and consistent with State and  
21 Federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving  
22 notice of the name of the "Jim Thome Highway"; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
3 presented to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
4 Transportation and James Howard "Jim" Thome.