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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The upcoming 2019-20 National Football League (NFL) season will be the 100th season of play for the Chicago Bears, a charter member of the NFL since the team's inception in 1920; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Bears are truly "Illinois' pro team"; they were founded in Decatur as the Staleys and played in central Illinois during their inaugural year before moving to Chicago in 1921; they changed their name to the Bears in 1922; and

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WHEREAS, The founding of the Bears, their move to Chicago, and their groundbreaking first decade as a professional football team were the work of George S. Halas, an Illinois native who, during the course of his 63-year career, played for, coached, and owned the Bears; and

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WHEREAS, As an innovator, George S. Halas created and managed professional football coaching as an institution; he and the Bears pioneered daily practice sessions, the use of cameramen and game films, the hiring and use of offensive and defensive coordinators and assistant coaches, and the development of player formations that made it possible for a quarterback and his fellow players to create ball targets in

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1 two or more separate directions and thus dominate the field of
2 play; and

3 WHEREAS, George S. Halas's work as a principal founder, not
4 only of the Chicago Bears but of professional football in the
5 United States as a whole, made him one of the immortal figures
6 in American sports; in 1963, he was named as one of the
7 inaugural class of honorees in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in
8 Canton, Ohio; beginning with the 1984-85 season, the NFL's
9 National Football Conference named its conference championship
10 trophy, a team's symbolic ticket to the Super Bowl, the George
11 Halas Trophy; and

12 WHEREAS, The Chicago Bears have hoisted the George S. Halas
13 Trophy twice, most recently on January 21, 2007 as the NFC
14 champions for the 2006-07 NFL season and even more memorably on
15 January 12, 1986 as the NFC champions for the 1985-86 NFL
16 season, after a game in which they defeated the Los Angeles
17 Rams by a score of 24 to 0 on the way to their victory in Super
18 Bowl XX; and

19 WHEREAS, "Da Bears" of Super Bowl XX, under head coach Mike
20 Ditka, legendary Hall of Famer Walter Payton, quarterback Jim
21 McMahon, Super Bowl MVP Richard Dent, and other players too
22 numerous to mention, forced their way onto America's television
23 screens and became "America's team"; and

1 WHEREAS, As the Chicago Bears fought their way to Super
2 Bowl XX, they carried the initials "GSH" on the upper left
3 sleeves of their jerseys as a tribute to the inspiring life of
4 George S. Halas, and team members have continued to do so to
5 this day; and

6 WHEREAS, Virginia Halas McCaskey, George S. Halas's
7 daughter, has presided over the team as owner for more than
8 three decades, including the Super Bowl XX championship season;
9 she has carried on the Halas heritage and principal ownership
10 of the Chicago Bears into their 100th season of professional
11 football; and

12 WHEREAS, Virginia Halas McCaskey accepted the George S.
13 Halas Trophy when the Chicago Bears won the NFC championship on
14 January 21, 2007; and

15 WHEREAS, In recognition of their 100th season and of the
16 100-season history of the Chicago Bears, the NFL has invited
17 the Chicago Bears to kick off the 2019-20 season; and

18 WHEREAS, This game will be played on Thursday, September 5,
19 2019, at Soldier Field in Chicago, with the Bears hosting a
20 team from the neighboring state of Wisconsin; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the men who have played and coached for the
4 Chicago Bears, the men and women who have been part of the
5 Chicago Bears organization, and the great fans who have
6 supported them for a century, for their parts in the story of
7 an organization that has become a touchstone of Illinois'
8 identity; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we remember, with admiration and gratitude,
10 the men and women of the Chicago Bears family who have moved
11 through the excitement of their lives; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we pay tribute to the Chicago Bears
13 organization for their 100-year history and their contribution
14 to the identity of Illinois and its people; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we look forward to many wins and
16 championships in the future of the Chicago Bears, a future
17 which will be even brighter than its past; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, owner of the
20 Chicago Bears Virginia Halas McCaskey, Chairman George H.
21 McCaskey, President and CEO Ted Phillips, General Manager Ryan
22 Pace, Head Coach Matt Nagy, and the 2019-20 Chicago Bears

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