



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Nearly 85 years have elapsed since the scandal of  
3 the 1919 World Series; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the story has frequently seen print, fact  
5 and fancy have been so confused that today it still is not  
6 known what actually took place; and

7 WHEREAS, The star Chicago White Sox third baseman, Buck  
8 Weaver, was acquitted in August of 1921 of all charges of  
9 conspiracy by a jury of "12 good men and true"; and

10 WHEREAS, The fact that his fielding average for the Series  
11 of 1919 was perfect, and the fact that in that Series he batted  
12 .324 offers strong evidence that he was no party to a  
13 conspiracy to "throw" the Series, and that he "played to win";  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, He suffered lifelong ignominy as a result of the  
16 scandal of 1919 and his subsequent banishment from organized  
17 baseball; and

18 WHEREAS, Eighty-five years is far too long for any man or  
19 the memory of him to be tainted for an act as to which strong  
20 evidence exists that it was never committed by him; and

21 WHEREAS, Buck Weaver was active in civic matters in  
22 Chicago, where he spent his days after the 1919 World Series  
23 until his death in 1956; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Weaver was particularly active in programs for  
25 the benefit of young boys and girls in youth baseball and  
26 softball after his return to private life; and

27 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of Illinois

1 recognizes the desire of the family, friends, and baseball fans  
2 who have loyally supported "Buck" Weaver that he be exonerated;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the State of Illinois  
5 believes him to have been innocent of any conspiracy to "throw"  
6 the World Series of 1919; and

7 WHEREAS, Although he is now deceased, the General Assembly  
8 of the State of Illinois feels that Buck Weaver should be  
9 exonerated by baseball as he was exonerated in criminal court;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Clearbuck.com movement started in July of 2003  
12 to reinstate Buck Weaver to Major League Baseball has gained  
13 national recognition as an opportunity for Major League  
14 Baseball to redress an historical wrong to an innocent man; and

15 WHEREAS, A story by Mike Bauman on MLB.com's own website in  
16 January of 2004 posed the question, "Why Not Reinstate Buck  
17 Weaver?"; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
20 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize that George "Buck"  
21 Weaver, who adopted Illinois as his home for the last 44 years  
22 of his life, was exonerated of any wrong doing in the 1919  
23 World Series in criminal court and maintained his innocence for  
24 the remainder of his life, therefore, we urge the Commissioner  
25 of Baseball to reinstate George "Buck" Weaver as a member in  
26 good standing of organized baseball; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
28 forwarded to the Commissioner of Baseball, the President of the  
29 American Baseball League, the President of the National  
30 Baseball League, and the family of Buck Weaver.