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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the Loyola University Chicago Men's Basketball
4 team for their magnificent season this year; and

5 WHEREAS, The Ramblers compiled a record of 28 wins and 5
6 loses during the regular season and advanced to the NCAA
7 Basketball Tournament for the first time since 1985; and

8 WHEREAS, Led by Head Coach Porter Moser, the Ramblers won
9 the Missouri Valley Conference by defeating Illinois State
10 University in the championship game 65 to 49 on March 4; Loyola
11 ended the regular season on a ten-game winning streak; and

12 WHEREAS, As a result of Loyola's great regular season,
13 Porter Moser was voted Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the
14 Year; and

15 WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago has been a member of the
16 Missouri Valley Conference since July 1, 2013; prior to that,
17 Loyola was in the Horizon League for 34 years as a charter
18 member; and

19 WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago received an invitation
20 to the NCAA Tournament and was the eleventh seed in the South

1 Region; in the first round, on March 15, their opponent, the
2 University of Miami, Florida, was the sixth seed; it was a
3 close game, with the Rambler's Donte Ingram hitting a
4 three-point shot with only three-tenths of a second left, to
5 give Loyola the win, 64 to 62; and

6 WHEREAS, In the second round (the Round of 32) on March 17,
7 Loyola faced the University of Tennessee, which was the third
8 seed in the South Region; in another close contest, Loyola's
9 Clayton Custer hit a fifteen-foot jumper with 3.6 seconds left
10 in the game to seal the victory for the Ramblers, 63 to 62;
11 this would not be Custer's Last Stand; and

12 WHEREAS, This has been another great season for Mr. Custer;
13 his honors include being named the Larry Bird Player of the
14 Year in the Missouri Valley Conference and a First Team
15 Scholar-Athlete in the Missouri Valley Conference; other
16 highlights this season for Clayton include: Associated Press
17 Honorable Mention All-America, CoSIDA Academic All-District,
18 and the Lou Henson Award; Clayton and Donte Ingram were named
19 NABC All-District 16; Cameron Krutwig was named MVC Freshman of
20 the Year; Ben Richardson and Clayton Custer were named MVC
21 First Team Scholar-Athlete and Division I-AAA Scholar-Athlete;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, In the third round (the Sweet Sixteen) of the NCAA

1 Tournament on March 22, Loyola's opponent was the University of
2 Nevada, Las Vegas, ranked as the seventh seed in the South
3 Region; the Ramblers played with great enthusiasm and precision
4 as time and time again they moved the ball to the basket;
5 Marques Townes had an outstanding game, scoring 18 points
6 including a 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds left in the game when
7 Loyola was ahead by one point; with a four-point lead, the
8 Ramblers held on to win 69 to 68; and

9 WHEREAS, In the fourth round (the Elite Eight) on March 24,
10 the Ramblers played Kansas State University, ranked as the
11 ninth seed in the South Region; teamwork once again was
12 paramount in how Loyola played; like the three previous
13 tournament games, "a star was born"; this time it was Ben
14 Richardson who scored 23 points, including six of seven
15 three-pointers; his superb offensive performance added to his
16 already illustrious reputation; Mr. Richardson had been named
17 the Missouri Valley Conference's Defensive Player of the Year;
18 he was named as a First Team Scholar-Athlete in the Missouri
19 Valley Conference and he was also honored as the South Region's
20 Most Outstanding Player in the NCAA Tournament; by virtue of
21 its victory over Kansas State, 78 to 62, Loyola won the South
22 Region and moved on to the Final Four for the first time since
23 1963 and extended its winning streak to fourteen, the longest
24 of any team in the tournament; and

1 WHEREAS, In the fifth round (the Final Four), held on March
2 31, Loyola's opponent was the University of Michigan, ranked as
3 the third seed in the West Region; the Ramblers played with a
4 lot of heart and led at halftime 29 to 22; this was an
5 incredible effort by Loyola given how powerful Michigan's
6 offense had been all season; however, with about 6 minutes left
7 in the game, Michigan took the lead and ended up with a
8 victory; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout Loyola's NCAA Tournament run, Sister
10 Jean Dolores Schmidt was a delight and an inspiration to the
11 team; as Team Chaplain, "Sister Jean" (as she is affectionately
12 known) inspired and motivated the Loyola Ramblers in
13 immeasurable ways; she has been a Sister in the religious order
14 of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin (BVM) since
15 1937 and has been Team Chaplain since 1996; now at the age of
16 98, she cemented the team ethos with her signature phrase:
17 "Worship, Work and Win"; in addition to her other honors,
18 Sister Jean had bestowed upon her one of the greatest of sports
19 honors, a bobblehead doll from the National Bobblehead Hall of
20 Fame and Museum; pre-orders have already surpassed the 15,000
21 mark, making her Bobblehead the biggest seller of all time by
22 far; by the end of the tournament it was safe to say that
23 Sister Jean was not just Loyola's treasure, but the nation's as
24 well; and

1 WHEREAS, Other Loyola University highlights for the season
2 include: a school record 32 wins, finishing the season ranked
3 No. 7 in the USA Today Coaches Poll, first outright
4 regular-season conference championship since 1985, first NCAA
5 Tournament appearance since 1985, first NCAA Final Four
6 appearance since 1963, and only the fourth No. 11 seed in NCAA
7 Tournament history to reach the Final Four; during the season
8 they defeated Florida, Miami, Tennessee, and Nevada, all
9 nationally-ranked teams; Loyola Athletics ranked No. 1 in the
10 NCAA for the second straight year with a 99% graduation success
11 rate; and

12 WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago has a long and storied
13 history in basketball; in 1963, Loyola broke with college
14 basketball's unwritten rule that no team should have more than
15 two black players on the court at any given time; in so doing,
16 they created a national conversation on race which led to the
17 elimination of the limit on black players' court time; on March
18 15, 1963, in the NCAA Tournament, Loyola played Mississippi
19 State University; the governor of Mississippi had instructed
20 the all-white Mississippi State team not to play against an
21 integrated team; their coach and players refused to follow the
22 instruction, and the game became known as the Game of Change;
23 Loyola would go on to defeat the two-time defending champion,
24 the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (ranked number one in the
25 nation), to win the national championship; Loyola remains the

1 only Illinois school to ever win the NCAA Basketball Title; and

2 WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago is a Jesuit school
3 founded in 1870; its main campus, known as the Lake Shore
4 Campus, is in the Rogers Park neighborhood on the northeast
5 side, while its downtown campus, known as the Water Tower
6 Campus, is next to Chicago's famed Magnificent Mile; Loyola has
7 an enrollment of more than 16,000 students and boasts 150,000
8 alumni, 85,000 of whom are in the Chicago area; team members
9 volunteer at Misericordia Heart of Mercy; and

10 WHEREAS, As a Jesuit school, Loyola takes seriously its
11 role in shaping students' lives; this is especially true of
12 student-athletes, many of whom will never play professional
13 sports; the degree they earn at Loyola is meaningful because of
14 the school's commitment to their education, which takes the
15 form of mentoring and tutoring to help guide them through a
16 rigorous academic and athletic schedule; student-athletes at
17 Loyola have a graduation rate of 99%; only five other schools
18 in Division I sports have a graduation rate that high, four of
19 them in the Ivy League; and

20 WHEREAS, All of Illinois is grateful and honored for the
21 positive national attention brought to Loyola University and
22 the City of Chicago; the Loyola University Men's Basketball
23 team had a thrilling season made noteworthy by its first

1 appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1985 and by making it
2 to the Final Four for the first time since 1963; Head Coach
3 Porter Moser and the entire group of players: Adarius Avery,
4 Jake Baughman, Dylan Boehm, Clayton Custer, Nick Dinardi, Donte
5 Ingram, Aundre Jackson, Cameron Krutwig, Christian Negrón, Ben
6 Richardson, Cameron Satterwhite, Carson Shanks, Bruno Skokna,
7 Marques Townes, Aher Uguak, and Lucas Williamson are rightly
8 proud of their season and accomplishments; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we congratulate the Loyola University
12 Chicago Men's basketball team for its great season and its
13 tremendous success in the NCAA Tournament; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we declare May 9, 2018 as "Loyola University
15 Chicago Day" in recognition of its accomplishments; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Coach Porter Moser as a token of our esteem and
19 good wishes.