



HR0133

LRB103 31268 MST 58364 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the life of Aaron Stephens
4 and his contributions to youth sports; and

5 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens is a retired Chicago public school
6 teacher and is currently the director of athletics at the
7 Apostolic Church of God; during his 35 years as a physical
8 education teacher, he has coached thousands of aspiring
9 basketball, baseball, football, and track and field athletes;
10 he began his sports career playing on the red sands of Darien,
11 Georgia but has created a sports legacy that is nationwide;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens graduated from Knoxville College
14 in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science in Education; while
15 attending college, he excelled as an athlete and played
16 basketball and baseball; he was drafted to play professional
17 baseball but chose to follow his lifelong dream of being an
18 educator, accepting his first teaching assignment in Chicago;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens began his coaching career at
21 Wentworth Elementary School, located in the heart of
22 Englewood; he began to create sports programs that would

1 inspire students to stay off the streets and out of gangs; he
2 insisted that the participants excel academically and stay
3 away from gangs, drugs, and alcohol; he enjoyed teaching, but
4 his personal mission was to develop athletes to reach their
5 personal best and to mentor students; he co-founded numerous
6 sports leagues to provide an alternative to the negative
7 street life that his students experienced on a daily basis;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens is also a deacon at the Apostolic
10 Church of God in Chicago; he initiated the athletic ministry
11 at his church, which includes baseball and basketball leagues
12 for youth and men as well as other health and fitness programs
13 and now serves as the model for hundreds of churches in the
14 Illinois District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens is a leader in his church and his
17 home; he is the father of three daughters and, for over 30
18 years, was the husband of Verneda; he is currently married to
19 Gwen Harris Stephens; and

20 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens was inducted into the Chicago
21 Public League Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on
22 May 19, 2018; and

1 WHEREAS, Aaron Stephens's coaching career began as a way
2 to inspire youth, and he remains as passionate about sports
3 and developing youth as he did in his early days; what began as
4 a career choice for him has become a sports legacy that will
5 continue to inspire young athletes and mentor youth;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we recognize the life of Aaron Stephens and his contributions
10 to youth sports and wish him the best in all of his future
11 endeavors; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy a suitable copy of this
13 resolution be presented to Aaron Stephens as a symbol of our
14 respect and esteem.