



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Ryne Dee Sandberg was born on September 18, 1959,  
3 in Spokane, Washington; he went to North Central High School,  
4 where he was a two-sport high school star, playing both  
5 football and baseball during the 1976-1978 school years, and  
6 named an All-America starting quarterback by Parade Magazine  
7 after his senior year, while being heavily recruited by major  
8 college football programs; after being selected in the  
9 twentieth round by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 1978 draft,  
10 he retired his shoulder pads for the baseball diamond and  
11 quickly earned the label of "can't-miss" major league prospect;  
12 he spent three seasons in Philadelphia's minor league system,  
13 primarily as a shortstop, before earning his major league debut  
14 at the end of the 1981 season; on January 27, 1982, as teams  
15 finalized rosters for spring training, Mr. Sandberg was dealt  
16 to the Chicago Cubs along with veteran shortstop Larry Bowa,  
17 for shortstop Ivan DeJesus; the trade to Chicago gave Ryne  
18 Sandberg the chance to play every day, an opportunity the  
19 Phillies just couldn't grant with infield prospects Julio  
20 Franco and Juan Samuel beating him to the major leagues; and

21           WHEREAS, Ryne Sandberg joined the roster of Chicago Cubs'  
22 greats by combining a dazzling defensive flair at second base  
23 with a tremendous knack for power; etching his name among fan  
24 favorites Ernie Banks, Billy Williams, and Ron Santo, he  
25 endeared himself to the Cubs' national fan base by doing  
26 something his predecessors could not: leading the club in 1984  
27 to its first postseason appearance since 1945, and returning  
28 the club there five seasons later, as the Cubs again captured  
29 the National League East Division title in 1989; second base  
30 was not immediately in his future, however, as he found his two  
31 infield positions - shortstop and second base - occupied with  
32 Bowa and Bump Wills, who was a spring training acquisition from  
33 Texas; Mr. Sandburg started the season at third base, appearing  
34 in 133 games at the hot corner in his rookie season; at the

1 plate, Sandberg displayed the offensive potential that scouts  
2 spotted early as a minor leaguer, batting .271 in 156 games,  
3 with 103 runs scored, 54 runs batted in, and 33 steals; he also  
4 began to work out at second base, logging 24 games at the  
5 position that he would take over fulltime in 1983, when the  
6 Cubs acquired Ron Cey from the Los Angeles Dodgers during the  
7 1982 off-season to play third base; the 1983 season would be a  
8 harbinger of great things to come for Mr. Sandberg; and

9       WHEREAS, As the Cubs' starting second baseman for the first  
10 time, "Ryno" appeared in 158 games, winning his first of nine  
11 consecutive Gold Gloves with a .986 fielding percentage; at the  
12 plate, Sandberg built on what he began as a full-time regular  
13 in 1982, ranking among the top five in runs scored in the  
14 National League for the second consecutive season; what he and  
15 the Cubs were setting the stage for in 1984 was nothing short  
16 of amazing; with just eight winning seasons from 1945 through  
17 1983, the Cubs' chances of winning the National League East  
18 Division seemed slight to their fans, at best; Mr. Sandburg,  
19 though steady in his first two seasons, was not yet expected to  
20 carry the club; he and the Cubs won 96 games, winning the  
21 division by 6.5 games over the New York Mets; arguably  
22 producing his best offensive season, Mr. Sandberg captured the  
23 National League Most Valuable Player Award in 1984, the first  
24 Cubs' MVP since Ernie Banks in 1959, batting a career-best  
25 .314, fourth-highest in the National League, totaling a  
26 career-best 200 hits, while leading the league in runs (114)  
27 and triples (19); he highlighted his 1984 season with a  
28 5-for-6, seven RBI performance against St. Louis on June 23,  
29 belting consecutive home runs off Cardinals' closer Bruce  
30 Sutter in the 9th and 10th innings; and

31       WHEREAS, The 1984 season offered a testament to Ryne  
32 Sandberg's all-around excellence, as he captured his second  
33 consecutive Gold Glove Award by committing only six errors in  
34 156 games, a .993 fielding percentage; even though the Cubs

1 would lose to San Diego in the 1984 National League  
2 Championship Series, Ryne appeared in his first of 10 straight  
3 All-Star Game appearances; the season marked his third  
4 consecutive with at least 30 stolen bases, a facet of his game  
5 that would reach its pinnacle in 1985, when he finished fourth  
6 in the National League with a career-best 54 steals; as he  
7 matured, so too did his ability to hit for power; he totaled at  
8 least 14 home runs in nine consecutive seasons from 1984 to  
9 1992, and it wasn't until 1989 that he hit 30 home runs for the  
10 first time, the fifth-highest total in the National League;  
11 that season, he helped return Chicago to the postseason,  
12 leading the league in runs scored for a second time in his  
13 career, while finishing in the top five in MVP voting for the  
14 second time in his career; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Sandburg would reach 40 home runs,  
16 pacing the National League, becoming the first second baseman  
17 since Hall of Famer Rogers Hornsby in 1922 to hit 40 in a  
18 single-season; his 116 RBIs were also a career-best; despite  
19 his rise in power, his ability to swipe an extra base remained,  
20 stealing 25 in 1990, his seventh season with at least 25  
21 steals; defensively, he turned in his best season in 1991,  
22 committing just four errors in 786 total chances, a league-best  
23 .995 fielding percentage; his mastery of the field from 1989  
24 through 1994 resulted in just 37 errors over six seasons,  
25 including a major league record errorless streak of 123 games  
26 and 584 chances that ended in May of the 1990 season; and

27 WHEREAS, In June 1994, Mr. Sandburg stepped away from the  
28 game, taking what would be a brief retirement before returning  
29 to the Cubs for the 1996 season; he would appear in 285 games  
30 over the 1996 and 1997 seasons before retiring permanently; his  
31 277 career home runs as a second baseman established a record  
32 for the most ever by the position, until surpassed at the  
33 conclusion of the 2004 season by Jeff Kent; among Mr.  
34 Sandberg's numerous career accolades, he ranks first all-time

1 for highest fielding percentage by a second baseman (.989), he  
2 shares the major league record for most years with 500 or more  
3 assists by a second baseman (6), he totaled five .300-plus  
4 batting average campaigns and one 200-hit season, and he hit  
5 five career grand slams; he led the National League second  
6 basemen in fielding percentage four times (1983, 1984, 1986,  
7 1991), he led the National League second basemen in assists  
8 seven times (1983, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, and 1992), and  
9 he led the National League second basemen in total chances four  
10 times in 1983 (914), 1984 (870), 1988 (824), and 1992 (830); in  
11 2,164 career games, he totaled a career .285 batting average, a  
12 .344 on base percentage, 282 home runs, 1,318 runs scored, and  
13 1,061 RBIs; as further testament to the greatness that Ryno  
14 exhibited while playing for the Chicago Cubs, Hall of Fame  
15 manager Tommy Lasorda is quoted as describing Sandberg as "a  
16 dominating player. He could beat you with his glove, his bat,  
17 and his arm."; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 the we congratulate Ryne Dee "Ryno" Sandberg on his induction  
21 into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, which occurred on  
22 January 4th, 2005; we are proud to recognize one of the best  
23 overall athletes ever to play for the Chicago Cubs, not only  
24 for his skill, ability, and knowledge of the game, but also for  
25 the outstanding character he portrayed both on and off the  
26 field; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
28 presented to Ryne Dee Sandberg and his family, the Chicago Cubs  
29 organization, and the Major League Baseball Association.