



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Ray  
4 Meyer, Hall of Fame basketball coach at DePaul University, on  
5 Friday, March 17, 2006, at the age of 92; and

6 WHEREAS, Ray Meyer was born on December 18, 1913, in  
7 Chicago, the son of a candy wholesaler and the youngest of ten  
8 children; he planned to be a priest but turned to sports after  
9 starring in basketball at Chicago's Quigley Prep and St.  
10 Patrick's Academy, where he was part of the 1932 Catholic high  
11 school national championship team; he later accepted a  
12 scholarship to play at Notre Dame, where he was co-captain of  
13 the basketball team during his junior and senior years, and  
14 where he also began his coaching career as an assistant coach;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Over the span of a 42-year career of dedication  
17 and leadership at DePaul, Coach Meyer compiled a record of 724  
18 wins and 354 losses, placing him fifth in career victories  
19 among college basketball coaches; his coaching accomplishments  
20 further included 37 winning seasons, 20 postseason  
21 appearances, a 1945 National Invitational Tournament  
22 championship, 13 trips to the NCAA tournament, including Final  
23 Four appearances in 1943 and 1979, and 12 seasons with 20 or  
24 more victories; and

25 WHEREAS, The true value of Ray Meyer's coaching skills was  
26 evidenced not only by his ability to have young men succeed on  
27 the basketball court, but also by his determination to instill  
28 in them the strong personal and family values that would allow  
29 them to succeed throughout their lives; and

30 WHEREAS, With the discovery of George Mikan, an unknown  
31 6'10" student who had never even played high school basketball,

1 Ray Meyer invented the role of the proverbial "big man",  
2 thereby revolutionizing the sport into what it has become  
3 today; and

4 WHEREAS, As the result of his remarkable achievements and  
5 contributions to the game, in February of 1979, Coach Meyer  
6 joined John Wooden, Adolph Rupp, and Frank McGuire as the only  
7 active coaches elected to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Those who knew Coach Meyer appreciated the fact  
10 that his passion for the game was only eclipsed by his  
11 boundless love for his wife, Marge, for his sons, Tommy, Joey,  
12 and Bobby, each having played for him at DePaul, and for his  
13 daughters, Barbara and Patricia; and

14 WHEREAS, DePaul students today, and for generations to  
15 come, will continue to participate and thrive in campus  
16 athletics at the Ray Meyer Fitness and Recreation Center  
17 located on a stretch of Belden Avenue, since renamed Ray Meyer  
18 Drive; and

19 WHEREAS, The willingness of Coach Meyer to freely give of  
20 himself to the community made him an ambassador, not only for  
21 DePaul University, but for the game of college basketball and  
22 the entire City of Chicago; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
24 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
25 we mourn the passing of Coach Ray Meyer, and we extend our  
26 deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who knew and  
27 loved him; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
29 presented to his family and to DePaul University as an  
30 expression of our sincerest condolences.