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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, This year, the Chicago White Sox will host the  
3 fourth annual Double Duty Classic, an event that celebrates the  
4 history and tradition of Negro League baseball in Chicago and  
5 showcases the next generation of minority baseball players; and

6           WHEREAS, On June 29, 2011, elite minority high school  
7 baseball players from across the country will participate in an  
8 All-Star game at U.S. Cellular Field, where they will dress in  
9 uniforms honoring the Negro Leagues East-West All-Star game;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, The annual Double Duty Classic is named in honor  
12 of Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, to commemorate the 78th  
13 anniversary of the first East-West All-Star game, played at  
14 Comiskey Park in Chicago; Radcliffe was a six time East-West  
15 Negro League All-Star and one of the most famous players in  
16 Negro League history; he was nicknamed "Double Duty" by writer  
17 Damon Runyon, who saw Radcliffe play in the 1932 Negro League  
18 World Series doubleheader; and

19           WHEREAS, Ted Radcliffe caught Satchel Paige in a shut-out  
20 victory and then pitched a shutout in the second game; the next  
21 day, Runyon wrote in his column, "It was worth the price of two  
22 admissions to see 'Double Duty' Radcliffe play."; and

1           WHEREAS, Ted Radcliffe was born in Mobile, Alabama on July  
2           7, 1902; he went on to have a career in baseball for 32 years,  
3           which included time as a player, manager, secretary, mentor,  
4           bus driver, and later, a Major League scout for the Cleveland  
5           Indians; and

6           WHEREAS, To continue playing games into the evening that  
7           started in the afternoon, Ted Radcliffe and his teammates are  
8           known to have ignited rags soaked in kerosene and are now  
9           credited with the invention of night games; and

10           WHEREAS, Ted Radcliffe is believed to be the first African  
11           American to manage an all-white professional baseball team,  
12           which was based in North Dakota and traveled through Canada  
13           playing games; and

14           WHEREAS, Over his lifetime, Ted Radcliffe received the  
15           State of Illinois Historical Committee's Life Achievement  
16           Award, was inducted into the Illinois Department on Aging Hall  
17           of Fame and Mobile Sports Hall of Fame, was honored by Mayor  
18           Richard Daley as being an outstanding citizen, and was the  
19           guest of three U.S. Presidents at the White House; a WGN  
20           documentary about Radcliffe's life, narrated by Morgan  
21           Freeman, won an Emmy Award; and

1           WHEREAS, The Double Duty Classic serves as a reminder to  
2 the City of Chicago and the baseball community of the history  
3 of Negro Leagues and provides an opportunity for elite minority  
4 baseball players to showcase their talents in the same manner  
5 as their ancestors; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we join the Chicago White Sox in commemorating the life and  
9 legacy of Ted 'Double Duty' Radcliffe and wish for the  
10 continued success of the annual Double Duty Classic; and be it  
11 further

12           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of Ted 'Double Duty' Radcliffe and the  
14 Chicago White Sox as a symbol of our esteem and respect.