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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Kirby Puckett, a member of the Major League
3 Baseball Hall of Fame, was one of the most popular, all-around
4 talented players of the 80s and 90s; he played his entire
5 major-league career for the Minnesota Twins, and he may be the
6 most popular athlete that ever played for the Twins; and

7 WHEREAS, The center fielder led his team not only with his
8 batting skills, but also through his enthusiasm and effort; his
9 plaque at in the Hall of Fame commemorates his "everpresent
10 smile and infectious exuberance; and

11 WHEREAS, He was born on the South Side of Chicago in 1960;
12 he was the youngest of 9 children in a small apartment in a
13 housing project; he played baseball as a kid, and after high
14 school he installed carpet at an automotive plant, then
15 attended a baseball tryout camp, where a college coach
16 recruited him; he played for Bradley University and Triton
17 College; and

18 WHEREAS, The Minnesota Twins selected him in the first
19 round of the 1982 draft, and on May 8, 1984, he played his
20 first major league game for the Twins and had four hits; in
21 1986, he was named to the American League's all-star team, an
22 honor he received in 10 straight seasons; he helped lead the

1 team to victory over the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1987 World
2 Series; the next year was his personal best: he batted .356
3 with 24 home runs and 121 runs batted in; in 1989, his .339
4 batting average won him the league batting title; and

5 WHEREAS, When the Twins returned to the playoffs in 1991,
6 he led the team to victory in the American League Championship
7 Series and was named the series' Most Valuable Player; in Game
8 6, he hit a single and a triple, stole a base, and in the third
9 inning, made a leaping catch against the center-field wall to
10 prevent Ron Gant from hitting either a home run or an
11 extra-base hit; then, in the 11th inning, with the score tied,
12 he hit a home run to win the game and tie the series; the Twins
13 went on to beat the Braves, 1-0, in Game 7; and

14 WHEREAS, Kirby Puckett retired from baseball at the age of
15 35 and passed away in 2006; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we remember Kirby Puckett and his many contributions to the
19 sport of baseball; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Kirby Puckett as a symbol of our
22 respect and esteem.