



HR0942

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor Bill Haller for his many achievements; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Haller was born on February 28, 1935, in Joliet; his father, Frank "The Fox" Haller, worked at the Joliet steel mills and his mother, Julia Haller, was a stay-at-home mom who raised her 3 children; he has one sister, Joyce Ganz, and one brother, Tom (deceased), who played Major League Baseball and served as the Assistant General Manager of the Chicago White Sox and the General Manager of the San Francisco Giants; and

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WHEREAS, Bill Haller was raised in Fairmont, a blue-collar neighborhood in Will County that is still very dear to his heart; he graduated from Fairmont Grade School and Lockport Township High School (Class of 1953); while in high school, he was a standout 3-sport athlete; in 1955, he graduated from Joliet Junior College; while at college, he excelled in baseball and basketball; he served as captain of the 1955 JJC basketball team, which qualified for the National Junior College Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas; and

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WHEREAS, Although Bill Haller wore many uniforms

1 throughout his career, the one that made him most proud was the
2 United States Army uniform he wore for 2 years after his
3 enlistment in 1955, including 16 months in Korea; and

4 WHEREAS, Bill Haller had a long and distinguished career as
5 a baseball umpire; he began umpiring in 1958 in the Class D
6 Georgia/Florida League of the Minor Leagues; in 1960, he
7 umpired in the Class B Northwest League; in 1961, he was
8 promoted to the Triple A Pacific Coast League; in 1962, he
9 worked the diamond in the International League in Triple A; and

10 WHEREAS, Bill Haller began his 20-year career in 1962 as a
11 Major League umpire in the American League; during his umpire
12 career, he worked in 4 World Series (1968, 1972, 1978, and
13 1981); he also worked in 4 All Star games (1968, 1973, 1975,
14 and 1977) and 4 American League playoff series (1969, 1971,
15 1975, and 1977); on July 14, 1972, he umpired home plate while
16 his brother, Tom, crouched down in front of him as the catcher
17 for the Detroit Tigers in a game against the Kansas City
18 Royals; this was the first and only brother umpire/catcher
19 combination in any game in Major League history; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, Bill Haller is often referred to by
21 baseball writers, broadcasters, and fans as "that legendary
22 Major League umpire"; he was well known in Major League
23 Baseball as a no-nonsense umpire, whose famous verbal

1 confrontations with Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver are
2 now part of the greatest moments of baseball lore; and

3 WHEREAS, After his retirement as an umpire, Bill Haller
4 continued working for Major League Baseball as the assistant
5 supervisor of umpires from 1983 to 1985; in 1986, he scouted
6 for the Chicago White Sox; in 1987, he was hired by George
7 Steinbrenner to scout for the New York Yankees; in 1993, he
8 returned to Major League Baseball to initiate its umpire
9 development program, where he remained until his retirement in
10 1994; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2007, Bill Haller was named one of the Lockport
12 Township High School Legends of Basketball from the past 100
13 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Bill Haller and his wife, Sally, are the loving
15 parents of Albert and Jenny and the grandparents of Kelsie,
16 Brooke, Mitchell, Sydney, Jesse, and Joshua; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we honor Bill Haller for his many achievements and wish him
20 success and happiness in the future; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Bill Haller as a symbol of our esteem, gratitude,
2 and respect.