



HR1239

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dawn Harper on the
4 occasion of winning a silver medal in the 100-meter hurdles
5 event at the 2012 Olympic Games in London; and

6 WHEREAS, Dawn Harper was born on May 13, 1984, to Henry and
7 Linda Harper; as a young girl in East St Louis, she was drawn
8 to athletics and was a 6-time Illinois High School State
9 Champion by the time she graduated from high school; during her
10 senior year of high school, UCLA Track & Field Head Coach
11 Jeanette Bolden traveled from Los Angeles to St. Louis to
12 personally recruit Ms. Harper, who was offered a full athletic
13 scholarship to UCLA; and

14 WHEREAS, During her time at UCLA, Dawn Harper majored in
15 psychology and eagerly trained in the 100-meter hurdles;
16 excelling in the event quickly, she earned the 2003 U.S. Junior
17 National Champion and Pan-American Games Champion designations
18 in the 100m hurdles event and received All-American honors
19 twice at the 2004 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships
20 after coming eighth in the 100m hurdles and taking second with
21 the 4x100m relay; in 2006, she was appointed as the women's
22 track and field team captain; by the time of her graduation in
23 June of 2006, she was a seven-time UCLA All-American; and

1 WHEREAS, After college, Dawn Harper continued her career in
2 track as a professional athlete, competing in such places as
3 Zurich, Stockholm, Paris, London, Brazil, the Dominican
4 Republic, Beijing, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, and
5 Germany, as well as countless locations within the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS, By July of 2008, Dawn Harper qualified to be on
8 the USA Olympic Team by placing 3rd in the 100-meter hurdles
9 and traveled to Beijing in 2008; despite being 4 years younger
10 than the average age of an Olympian and being the underdog of
11 the 100-meter hurdles event, she ran a perfect race and surged
12 across the finish line for a spectacular victory in 12.54
13 seconds; and

14 WHEREAS, After a lengthy rehabilitation from knee surgery
15 in 2010, Dawn Harper returned to hurdling in April of 2011;
16 after just four months of training and racing, she won the
17 bronze medal at the World Championships with a personal-best of
18 12.47 seconds; leading up to the 2012 Olympic Games in London,
19 she took first place at both the Diamond League Meet in Rome
20 and the IAAF World Challenge Meet in Daegu; during the closest
21 finish since the Atlanta Olympic Games and the deepest-ever
22 final in terms of performances, she ran a personal best of
23 12.37 to capture the silver medal, only missing the gold medal

1 by .02 seconds; and

2 WHEREAS, Dawn Harper serves as a model of hard work,
3 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
4 Illinois; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate Dawn Harper on her silver medal victory and
8 wish her continued success and happiness in the future; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Dawn Harper as a symbol of our esteem and respect.