



HR0580

LRB098 13899 GRL 48433 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Little League Baseball and Softball is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with nearly 2.6 million players and one million adult volunteers in every state in the nation and many other countries; the Little League Challenger Division is Little League's adaptive baseball programs for boys and girls with physical and developmental challenges; and

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WHEREAS, The Little League Baseball World Series Challenger Exhibition Game has been a part of the Little League Baseball World Series schedule since 2001; boys and girls ages 4-18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in a school program, with a physical or developmental challenge participate in the Challenger Division program; and

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WHEREAS, Flexibility and adaptability are key during Challenger games; the innings are shortened and last about an hour, while all players play defensively and receive a chance to bat every inning; the players have "buddies" that are individuals who assist Challenger athletes in the areas of batting, base running, and defense as needed; often, buddies are peer athletes who are participating in the Little League Baseball or Softball program; and

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WHEREAS, There are currently over 900 Challenger programs

1 in 10 countries around the world; over 30,000 athletes  
2 participate in the Challenger Division; 40 to 50 programs apply  
3 to play during the Little League Baseball World Series every  
4 year; the Little League's staff review stories from each  
5 aspirant and select two teams that are exemplary; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois District 13 from the Chicago area and  
7 California District 57 from the San Francisco area were  
8 selected to represent more than 30,000 Challenger players and  
9 more than 900 leagues worldwide; the Illinois District 13  
10 Challenger Division, founded in 1994, has 165 players and 14  
11 teams from the combination of the Bartlett, Tri-Cities, and  
12 Woodstock Little Leagues in the Greater Chicago area; and

13 WHEREAS, On August 24, 2013 at Volunteer Stadium in South  
14 Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the Little League Challenger  
15 Division played its 13th consecutive exhibition game; Illinois  
16 District 13 experienced the trip of a lifetime; the teams  
17 exchanged gift bags between players and their "buddies" and  
18 each player received a baseball autographed by ESPN baseball  
19 analysts; most importantly, the teams also received publicity,  
20 which results in a positive outcome; and

21 WHEREAS, Every batter recorded a hit, reached base safely,  
22 and scored a run; the two teams successfully finished the game  
23 - a game in which no player is concerned about the score;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we congratulate the Woodstock Challenger Little League team for  
5 participating in the Little League Baseball World Series  
6 Challenger Exhibition Game; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the Woodstock Challenger Little League team.