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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Frank Edward Thomas on his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame on July 27, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Frank Thomas was born on May 27, 1968 in Columbus, Georgia; and

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WHEREAS, Frank Thomas starred in both baseball and football in high school; and

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WHEREAS, In 1986, Frank Thomas enrolled at Auburn University, where he played tight end on the football team and also starred on the baseball team; he hit .359 in the 1986 season and was selected to play for the United States team in the Pan-Am Games; in 1989, he was named the Southeastern Conference Most Valuable Player in baseball; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1989 Major League Baseball draft, Frank Thomas was selected with the seventh pick in the first round by the Chicago White Sox; and

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WHEREAS, Frank Thomas made his major league debut on August 2, 1990 against the Milwaukee Brewers where he recorded his

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1 first RBI; on August 28, 1990, he hit the first home run of his  
2 career in Minnesota, against the Twins; he finished his first  
3 season hitting .330 with 7 home runs and 31 RBI in 60 games;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 1991, Frank Thomas's first full season, he  
6 established himself as a multi-talented hitter, combining  
7 power with hitting for average, drawing walks, and driving in  
8 runs; he finished third in Most Valuable Player voting with a  
9 .318 batting average, 32 home runs, 109 runs batted in, and 138  
10 walks; he won the first of 4 Silver Slugger awards, and led the  
11 league in on-base percentage, something he would accomplish 4  
12 times throughout his career; and

13 WHEREAS, During the 1993 season, Frank Thomas would lead  
14 his team to the American League West championship by hitting  
15 .317 with 41 home runs and 128 RBI; he would unanimously win  
16 the 1993 Most Valuable Player Award by receiving all 28 first  
17 place votes; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 1994 strike shortened season, Frank Thomas  
19 became the sixth player in American League history to win  
20 consecutive Most Valuable Player Awards; and

21 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas continued to pile up the numbers in  
22 the 1990s, winning a batting title in 1997 with a .347 batting

1 average and by compiling a major league record of 7 consecutive  
2 seasons with at least 100 RBI, 100 walks, 20 home runs, and a  
3 .300 average; and

4 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas contributed to the 2005 Chicago White  
5 Sox team that won the franchise's first World Series  
6 championship in 88 years; and

7 WHEREAS, During the 2006 season, Frank Thomas helped the  
8 Oakland Athletics win the American League West championship by  
9 hitting .270 with 39 home runs and 114 RBI; during the American  
10 League Division series he went 5 for 10 with 2 home runs as the  
11 A's swept the Minnesota Twins; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 28, 2007, Frank Thomas, as a member of the  
13 Toronto Blue Jays, became the 21st person in major league  
14 history to hit 500 home runs; and

15 WHEREAS, On February 12, 2010, Frank Thomas signed a  
16 one-day contract with the Chicago White Sox and announced his  
17 retirement; and

18 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas finished his career with 521 home  
19 runs with 5 seasons with at least 40 home runs; 1,704 RBI; a  
20 .301 career batting average; a .419 on-base percentage,  
21 including 4 seasons where he led the league; 1,667 walks with 4

1 league-leading seasons; 5 All-Star Game selections; 4 Silver  
2 Slugger Awards; and 9 Top 10 finishes in the American League  
3 Most Valuable Player voting, including his back-to-back wins in  
4 1993 and 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, On January 8, 2014, Frank Thomas was elected to  
6 the National Baseball Hall of Fame the first year he was  
7 eligible by receiving 478 votes, 83.7% of the votes cast; and

8 WHEREAS, Frank Thomas gave an emotional speech where he  
9 thanked many of the people in his life who have helped him make  
10 it into the Hall of Fame; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we congratulate Frank Edward Thomas on his induction to the  
14 National Baseball Hall of Fame; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to Frank Edward Thomas and the Chicago White Sox as a  
17 symbol of our recognition of his great achievements.