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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives would like to congratulate Kris Bryant of the
4 Chicago Cubs on unanimously being voted as the 2015 National
5 League Rookie of the Year by the Baseball Writers' Association
6 of America for his outstanding play and successful
7 contributions to his team this year; and

8 WHEREAS, Kristopher "Kris" Lee Bryant, son of Mike and
9 Susie Bryant, was born in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 4, 1992;
10 from a very young age, he showed promise in the sport of
11 baseball; after graduating from Bonanza High School with
12 numerous awards and recognitions at age 18, he was drafted by
13 the Toronto Blue Jays in the 18th round of the 2010 Major
14 League Baseball (MLB) draft in June of that year; however, the
15 young ballplayer elected to attend the University of San Diego
16 (USD) instead; and

17 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant continued to grow and excel while
18 playing for the USD Toreros; in 2013, he had his best
19 collegiate season, registering 31 home runs and leading the
20 country with 80 runs, 66 walks, 187 total bases, and an
21 outstanding .820 slugging percentage; this effort propelled
22 him to be awarded the USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award, an
23 award that recognizes the nation's top amateur baseball player

1 each year; in that same year, he also received the Dick Howser
2 Trophy, awarded annually to the collegiate player that best
3 represents courage, character, leadership, and performance;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Given Kris Bryant's stellar results on the field
6 and positive potential for play in the major leagues, the
7 Chicago Cubs selected him with the number 2 overall pick in the
8 MLB 2013 First-Year Player Draft; and

9 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant began his professional career with the
10 Boise Hawks and quickly enjoyed successful promotions to the
11 Daytona Cubs, Tennessee Smokies, and, finally, the Iowa Cubs;
12 by the end of a stellar campaign in 2014, he was named the USA
13 Today Minor League Player of the Year and the Baseball America
14 Minor League Player of the Year, leading baseball critics to
15 consider him one of the top prospects for the 2015 season; and

16 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant was invited to play for the Chicago
17 Cubs during the team's Cactus League spring training in Mesa,
18 Arizona, where he took full advantage of the opportunity to
19 demonstrate his talents; the 23-year-old prospect posted
20 impressive statistics that accurately displayed his knack for
21 hitting for both power and average; the young Cubs right-hander
22 hit 9 home runs while posting a .425 batting average on just 40
23 at-bats; and

1 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant came into the 2015 MLB season with
2 everyone watching and waiting to see what the young 23-year-old
3 infielder could bring to the young Chicago Cubs team, and he
4 surely did not disappoint; after being named MLB Rookie of the
5 Month for May and capitalizing on the opportunity to start in
6 both infield and outfield positions for the Cubs, he joined
7 fellow teammate Anthony Rizzo in the 2015 All-Star Game played
8 in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 14, 2015; and

9 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant continued to demonstrate his talents
10 by being named the MLB Rookie of the Month for a second time in
11 the month of August; and

12 WHEREAS, While baseball is a not a sport that can easily be
13 won or lost on the shoulders of just one individual, Kris
14 Bryant played an instrumental role in helping the Chicago Cubs
15 obtain the third best record in baseball and, more importantly,
16 successfully earn a playoff birth for the first time since
17 2008; and

18 WHEREAS, With Kris Bryant batting third in the line-up, the
19 Chicago Cubs beat their division rivals, the Pittsburgh
20 Pirates, in a one game wild card playoff at PNC Park on October
21 7, 2015; after securing a spot in the National League Division
22 Series, the Cubs went on to defeat division rival, the St.

1 Louis Cardinals; after their strong showing against the
2 Cardinals, the Cubs proceeded to face the New York Mets in the
3 National League Championship Series - a position the team had
4 not been in since the 2003 season; and

5 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant had a stellar 2015 rookie season,
6 playing in 151 games, hitting 26 home runs, registering a .275
7 batting average, scoring 99 runs-batted-in, and stealing 13
8 bases; among the top rookies in the National League, he was
9 first in home runs (tying Joe Pederson of the Los Angeles
10 Dodgers), runs, runs-batted-in, on-base percentage, doubles,
11 sacrifice flies, and total bases; he was in the top-5 in hits,
12 triples, walks, steals, and many other categories; and

13 WHEREAS, In October of 2015, Sporting News named Kris
14 Bryant as the 2015 National League Rookie Player of the Year,
15 as selected by a panel of 167 National League players; this
16 prestigious distinction has been awarded since 1946; he joins a
17 select list of former Chicago Cubs players to have received
18 this incredible honor, including Billy Williams (1961), Mark
19 Grace (1988), and Kerry Wood (1998); and

20 WHEREAS, Kris Bryant has demonstrated that he is a true
21 leader and influential member of the Chicago Cubs organization;
22 at the age of 23, he not only has earned the respect of his
23 teammates in the clubhouse, but has displayed a sincere and

1 unbridled passion for the sport; his potential is unrivaled by
2 any other young player in the sport today; after only one
3 season of playing in the major leagues, he has already become a
4 central figure for the Cubbies and one that the team hopes will
5 help them achieve much more success for many years to come;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 celebrate the success of Kris Bryant, along with the Chicago
10 Cubs, in the 2015 season, and we congratulate him on being
11 named the 2015 Major League Baseball National League Rookie of
12 the Year; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 delivered to Kris Bryant as a token of our congratulations and
15 esteem.