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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, James Howard "Jim" Thome is a retired professional  
3 baseball player who played 22 seasons from 1991 to 2012 for six  
4 teams including the Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Phillies,  
5 Chicago White Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers, Minnesota Twins, and  
6 Baltimore Orioles; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Thome was born to parents Joyce and Charles  
8 Thome and raised in Peoria County; he began playing baseball  
9 with the West Peoria Little League and moved on to Limestone  
10 Community High School in Bartonville, where he achieved  
11 all-state honors as a baseball shortstop; following his high  
12 school graduation, he played baseball at Illinois Central  
13 College in East Peoria for one season before being drafted by  
14 the Cleveland Indians in 1989; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Thome officially retired from the Cleveland  
16 Indians in 2014 accumulating the following career statistics:  
17 .276 batting average, 2,328 hits, 612 home runs, and 1,699 RBI;  
18 he now works in an executive position with the Chicago White  
19 Sox and as an analyst for MLB Network; and

20 WHEREAS, Jim Thome's career highlights include: five time  
21 All-Star in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2004, and 2006, Silver Slugger  
22 Award in 1996, American League Come-Back Player of the Year in

1 2006, the Roberto Clemente Award in 2002, and National League  
2 home run champion in 2003; he was inducted into the National  
3 Baseball Hall of Fame in 2018 and the Greater Peoria Area  
4 Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 and is one of only 54 first ballot  
5 baseball Hall of Famers; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Thome is known for his positive attitude and  
7 outgoing personality as well as his philanthropic activities  
8 which have earned him two Marvin Miller Man of the Year Awards  
9 and the Lou Gehrig Memorial Award; he is also known for his  
10 willingness to sign autographs for the fans; and

11 WHEREAS, Jim Thome hit 612 home runs during his  
12 professional baseball career and is the 8th player in line in  
13 baseball history to reach this accomplishment; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE  
16 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare June 12, 2018 as "Jim Thome  
17 Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to Jim Thome as an expression of our esteem and  
20 respect.