



HR0777

LRB100 18463 ALS 33678 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Jim Thome on his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Jim Thome grew up on the South Side of Peoria and played baseball in the West Peoria program; he attended Limestone Community High School in Bartonville, where he received All-State honors as a shortstop; and

6

7

8

9

WHEREAS, After his high school graduation, Jim Thome played baseball at Illinois Central College, where he was drafted in the 13th round by the Cleveland Indians in 1989; he rose quickly through the minor leagues and got his first call to the majors in September 1991; he would go onto play 22 seasons, 13 with the Indians, before his retirement; a third baseman for his first six seasons, he moved to first base and later became primarily a designated hitter; in 2014, the Indians erected a statue of him, which greets fans on the plaza just beyond the centerfield gates at Progressive Field in Cleveland; and

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Jim Thome retired after the 2012 season; during his career, he accumulated a .276 batting average, 2,328 hits, 1,699 RBI, and 612 home runs, the eighth most in baseball history; he reached the postseason ten times and hit 17 home

20

21

22

1 runs, which tied him for seventh all-time; and

2 WHEREAS, During his career, Jim Thome earned the Silver
3 Slugger Award, American League Comeback Player of the Year, and
4 the Roberto Clemente Award; he was also elected to five
5 all-Star game rosters; and

6 WHEREAS, Jim Thome is one of only 54 first ballot Hall of
7 Fame players; he and his wife, Andrea, live in suburban Chicago
8 with their children, Lila and Landon; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Jim Thome on his election to the National Baseball
12 Hall of Fame, in his first year of eligibility, and we
13 recognize his long, successful career; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Jim Thome a symbol of our esteem and respect.