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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher is one of the greatest defensive  
3 linebackers to ever play professional football, dazzling  
4 Chicago fans with his intensity and work ethic on the field  
5 coupled with a stand-up reputation off the field; and

6 WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher was born on May 25, 1978 in Pasco,  
7 Washington; he moved to New Mexico where he attended Lovington  
8 High School and excelled in football, basketball, track, and  
9 table tennis; and

10 WHEREAS, Even as a young football player, Brian Urlacher's  
11 prodigious athleticism and versatility allowed him playing  
12 time as a running back, wide receiver, return specialist, and  
13 defensive back; he led the Lovington High School Wildcats to an  
14 undefeated 14 and 0 season and a division 3-A state  
15 championship; he finished the season with 12 touchdown  
16 receptions, six touchdown returns, and two rushing touchdowns;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to state-recognized honors in  
19 football and basketball, Brian Urlacher's alma mater,  
20 Lovington High School, recognized his accomplishments by  
21 retiring his high-school jersey number and naming a holiday  
22 after him; and

1           WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Lovington High School, Brian  
2           Urlacher enrolled at the University of New Mexico, majored in  
3           criminology, and played for the New Mexico Lobos football team;  
4           he finished his football career with 442 tackles, three  
5           interceptions, 11 sacks, and 11 forced fumbles, along with  
6           catching six touchdown passes and returning five kicks for  
7           touchdowns; and

8           WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher's remarkable career at UNM was  
9           highlighted with All-American honors from Walter Camp, the  
10          Football Writers Association of America, and the Associated  
11          Press; his collegiate play culminated with his selection to the  
12          2000 Senior Bowl, where he was one of the game's top players;  
13          and

14          WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher impressed spectators and analysts  
15          at the NFL Scouting Combine by bench pressing 225 pounds 27  
16          times and completing the 40-yard dash in 4.57 seconds; he  
17          caught the eye of the Chicago Bears, who ultimately selected  
18          him in the first round as the draft's ninth overall pick; and

19          WHEREAS, Bear's head coach, Dick Jauron, recognized Brian  
20          Urlacher's versatility as a middle and outside linebacker and  
21          appointed him as the team's starting strong-side linebacker;  
22          and

1           WHEREAS, During his first season with the Bears, Brian  
2           Urlacher recorded 124 tackles and eight sacks, surpassing the  
3           franchise's previous rookie records; he received a number of  
4           individual accolades for his performance during the season,  
5           including from the Associated Press and The Sporting News, who  
6           named him as the 2000 Defensive Rookie of the Year; and

7           WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher played one of the best games of his  
8           career on October 7, 2001 against the Atlanta Falcons, where he  
9           held Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, who was well known for  
10          his scrambling abilities, to 18 rushing yards and recorded a  
11          forced fumble with a sack, demonstrating his immense athletic  
12          ability; he recovered Michael Vick's fumble for a 90-yard  
13          touchdown; and

14          WHEREAS, In 2005, Brian Urlacher won the NFL Defensive  
15          Player of the Year after the Bears allowed the fewest points  
16          per game and created the most turnovers in the National  
17          Football Conference; additionally, he recorded at least 10  
18          tackles in six consecutive games, while finishing the season  
19          with a team-high 121 tackles; and

20          WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher's natural talent as a leader was  
21          shown in the 2005 season, when he helped the Bears come back  
22          from a 20-point deficit against the Arizona Cardinals by

1 recording 19 tackles and a forced fumble that was returned for  
2 a touchdown; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2012, Brian Urlacher was awarded the Ed Block  
4 Courage Award, given to those who showed a commitment to  
5 sportsmanship and courage; during his award acceptance speech,  
6 he thanked the Bears for their support after his mother Lavoyda  
7 Lenard died; and

8 WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher played 182 games with the Chicago  
9 Bears recording 1,037 solo tackles, 316 assisted tackles, 41.5  
10 sacks with 252 lost yards, and 22 interceptions for 324 yards  
11 and two touchdowns; and

12 WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher was the main reason Lovie Smith's  
13 Cover 2 defense was so successful in Chicago, rushing offences  
14 sideline-to-sideline while at the same time having the ability  
15 to drop back in coverage and take away the middle third of the  
16 field; this fluidity allowed him to lead the Bear defense to  
17 the top five in points allowed four times during his tenure  
18 with the team: in 2005, 2006, 2010, and 2012; and

19 WHEREAS, Brian Urlacher stated "If you play middle  
20 linebacker, you want to play in Chicago because, to me, it's  
21 the most coveted defensive position in football: middle  
22 linebacker for the Chicago Bears", and "It was an honor" after

1 hearing he became the 28th Hall of Famer to enter as a Bear in  
2 the eight-member 2018 class; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 applaud and commend Brian Urlacher for his accomplishments  
6 during his 12 seasons playing for the Chicago Bears; his  
7 hard-work, dedication, and commitment to teamwork, exemplified  
8 day-in and day-out, gave fans a reason to enjoy the game  
9 despite the ebbs and flows of the season; in addition to  
10 maintaining an unwavering commitment to the game, he  
11 demonstrated excellent leadership and poise which garnered the  
12 respect of teammates, coaches, opponent, and fans alike; and be  
13 it further

14       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 presented to Brian Urlacher and the Chicago Bears.