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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, State Representative Monique D. Davis, together
3 with the House of Representatives, is pleased to congratulate
4 Shani Davis on bringing great honor to his hometown of Chicago
5 and the State of Illinois by once again making history by
6 becoming the first African-American athlete in Winter Olympics
7 history to win an individual gold medal; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis captured the gold medal in the men's
9 1,000 meter speed skate in Turin, Italy, on Saturday, February
10 18, 2006; he finished the race in one minute and 8.89 seconds;
11 he already holds the world record for the 1,000 meter with a
12 time of one minute and 7.03 seconds; and

13 WHEREAS, He was born on Friday, August 13, 1982, in
14 Chicago, where he was raised by his mother on the south side;
15 he started roller skating at local rinks at age two, and
16 because he was so fast, a coach referred him to the ice; at the
17 age of six, he began speed skating competitively; by age ten,
18 he and his mother moved to the north side of Chicago, so that
19 they would be closer to the ice rink; and

20 WHEREAS, He won five National Age Group Championships in
21 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, and 2003 and won a North American
22 Championship in 1999; before becoming the first African
23 American to make a U.S. Olympic speed skating team in 2002, he
24 began making history at age 17, when he became the first U.S.
25 skater to earn spots on both the short track and long track
26 Junior World Teams and accomplished that feat three years in a
27 row in 2000, 2001, and 2002; and

28 WHEREAS, At the 2002 Junior Country Match and 2002 Junior
29 World Championships in Italy, Mr. Davis earned his first
30 international medals, when he won the 1,500 meters at both
31 competitions; in the 2004-2005 season, he won his third

1 straight U.S. Long Track Championship Title, broke the 1,500
2 meter world record, and went on to win the 2005 World Allround
3 Championships; for the second season in a row, not only did he
4 make history earning spots on world teams in both disciplines,
5 he also made his first world sprint team earning two silver
6 medals; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate Shani Davis on bringing honor to our great
10 State with his outstanding performance at the Winter Olympics
11 that made him the first African American to win an individual
12 gold medal; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Mr. Davis as an expression of our esteem and with
15 best wishes for much success in his speed skating career.