



HR0194

LRB099 10670 MST 31492 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Terrance J. "T.J." Shirley was a dedicated athlete
3 with an outstanding understanding of sports, and it translated
4 into exposing his students to all types of experiences that
5 promote dedication, leadership, and academic prowess; and

6 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley's lifetime goal is to continue to
7 help each and every student achieve success; and

8 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley has been an educator in Thornton
9 Township High School District 205 and has made substantial
10 contributions to the district, the State, and the country
11 through an unyielding dedication to education that has touched
12 the lives of generations of Thornridge Falcons; and

13 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley, in his role as a varsity track
14 coach, has become nearly legendary at Thornridge High School
15 and in Thornton Township, as his great success over the decades
16 is indicative of his mastery of the sport; and

17 WHEREAS, The faculty, staff, and community of Thornridge
18 has submitted over 575 signatures in support of T.J. Shirley
19 and has heard testimony from over 50 students, parents, faculty
20 members, and community members; and

1 WHEREAS, Before coming to Thornridge High School, T.J.
2 Shirley was a student athlete at Dubuque University, where he
3 earned his Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1981 and was an
4 outstanding track athlete, setting many school records, 2 of
5 which he still holds today; and

6 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley was an outstanding physical
7 education teacher and coach of multiple sports at Thornridge
8 High School, ultimately becoming athletic director; and

9 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley has had very successful programs and
10 coached 2 varsity conference championships and 2
11 freshman-sophomore conference championships; he coached 62
12 individual varsity conference champions, 67 individual
13 freshman-sophomore conference champions, and 36 State
14 medalists, including 3 individual State champions, 5 indoor
15 track school record holders, and 14 outdoor track school record
16 holders; and

17 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley has developed many student athletes
18 who went on to college or university athletic programs, and he
19 has mentored thousands of grateful students and athletes; and

20 WHEREAS, T.J. Shirley was well known for his annual
21 athletic field event known as "Blue Smoke" to the community;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Thornton Township High School District 205's
2 Board of Education has received a resolution from the Student
3 Board of Education in support of renaming the track at
4 Thornridge High School in honor of T.J. Shirley; therefore, be
5 it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 urge Thornton Township High School District 205 to rename its
9 track in honor of Terrance J. "T.J." Shirley; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the Thornton Township High School District 205
12 Board of Education.