



HR0302

LRB104 13294 ECR 25533 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The Illinois House of Representatives wishes to  
3 celebrate the achievements of the Illinois athletes, coaches,  
4 law enforcement officers, and representatives who proudly  
5 competed and served as part of the Special Olympics USA  
6 delegation at the 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games in  
7 Turin, Italy; and

8

WHEREAS, The Special Olympics World Games is the largest  
9 international sporting event for athletes with intellectual  
10 disabilities, drawing over 1,500 athletes from around the  
11 globe to compete in eight winter sports, including alpine  
12 skiing, cross country skiing, dancesport, figure skating,  
13 floorball, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and short track speed  
14 skating; and

15

WHEREAS, The Special Olympics USA delegation was comprised  
16 of more than 160 athletes, coaches, and staff representing 42  
17 states, including outstanding individuals from Illinois who  
18 embodied the spirit of sportsmanship, excellence, service, and  
19 inclusion; and

20

WHEREAS, The Illinois delegation to Team USA was led by  
21 Coach Jim Bluemond of Geneva; the Team USA athletes included  
22 Daniel Johnson of Normal, Mallory Marvin of Libertyville, and

1 Brandon Waller of Palatine, who all competed in the sport of  
2 snowshoeing, proudly representing Illinois on the world stage;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, These Illinois athletes showcased exceptional  
5 talent and determination, achieving inspiring results, which  
6 included Brandon Waller capturing the gold medal in the 800  
7 meters and the silver medal in the 400 meters, Mallory Marvin  
8 earning a bronze medal in the 50 meters and finishing fourth in  
9 the 25 meters, narrowly missing the medal podium in a  
10 thrilling photo finish, and Daniel Johnson taking home the  
11 silver medal in the 400 meters and placing fourth in the 800  
12 meters, delivering a remarkable final push to close the race;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Coach Jim Bluemond provided outstanding  
15 leadership and mentorship throughout the 2025 Special Olympics  
16 World Winter Games, playing an instrumental role in the team's  
17 preparation, unity, and success; and

18 WHEREAS, The Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for  
19 Special Olympics was proudly represented by Dennis Walker,  
20 Robbi Peterson, and Bill Devine who had the honor of carrying  
21 the Eternal Flame of Hope at the World Games, serving as global  
22 ambassadors for inclusion and the enduring partnership between  
23 law enforcement and Special Olympics; and

1           WHEREAS, Rich Howe, also from Illinois, served as an  
2 official photographer for the 2025 World Games, capturing the  
3 power and emotion of the competition and preserving the legacy  
4 of these athletes and this historic global celebration of  
5 inclusion; and

6           WHEREAS, The achievements and contributions of these  
7 athletes, coaches, law enforcement representatives, and  
8 volunteers are a testament to their dedication and passion and  
9 the power of the Special Olympics movement to uplift  
10 individuals and communities; and

11           WHEREAS, The accomplishments of these remarkable  
12 individuals bring pride to our State and illustrate the  
13 life-changing impact of the Special Olympics movement, which  
14 fosters inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for people with  
15 intellectual disabilities; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we congratulate the Illinois members of Team USA who  
19 represented our State with honor at the 2025 Special Olympics  
20 World Winter Games; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to Jim Bluemond, Daniel Johnson, Mallory Marvin,  
2 Brandon Waller, Dennis Walker, Robbi Peterson, Bill Devine,  
3 and Rich Howe as symbols of our esteem and respect.