



HR0528

LRB104 15981 MST 29226 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Ross Garrett Wolf, a
4 native of Newton and former Major League Baseball (MLB)
5 pitcher, on being selected to the National Athletic Hall of
6 Fame for 2025; and

7 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf was born in Effingham to Gary and Terri
8 (Oliver) Wolf of Wheeler on October 18, 1982 and is a member of
9 a four-generation farm family, John Wolf Farm; and

10 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf, his wife, Lynn (Beavers) Wolf, and his
11 three children, Eli, Emery, and Mathis, live in rural Wheeler
12 in Jasper County; and

13 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf is a proud graduate of Newton High
14 School and a member of the 2001 Class A IHSA (Illinois High
15 School Association) State Championship team, for which he was
16 named most valuable player, pitching extra innings against
17 Benton High School and going on to have a remarkable
18 professional baseball career; and

19 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf was initially drafted out of Newton
20 Community High School by the Montreal Expos in the 47th round
21 (1390th overall) of the 2001 Major League Baseball draft, but

1 he did not sign and instead played for Wabash Valley College;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf, after playing at Wabash Valley College
4 in Mt. Carmel, was drafted in the 18th round of the 2002 Major
5 League Baseball draft by the Florida Marlins (533rd overall)
6 and went on to pitch for the Baltimore Orioles, Oakland
7 Athletics, Houston Astros, and Texas Rangers, as well as
8 internationally in the Korean Baseball Organization (KBO) with
9 the SK Wyverns; he rejoined the Rangers organization in 2014
10 before officially retiring from professional baseball in 2016;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf inherited his love of baseball from his
13 dad, Gary, and his grandfather, Howard Wolf, who played
14 semi-professional baseball in the 1930s and 1940s and, in a
15 game in 1940, pitched a change-up that the batter hit for a
16 home run; the batter was the home run king of the Negro
17 Leagues, Jackie Robinson; his grandfather was drafted into the
18 Army but did not get to serve because of a spot on his left eye
19 and was recruited by the Chicago Cubs in 1941, but he fell off
20 the shed roof and hurt his arm working on the farm; and

21 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf set the Triple A record for appearances
22 as a reliever with over 100 for the Albuquerque Isotopes; and

1 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf played for the Round Rock Express, a
2 Minor League Baseball team of the Pacific Coast League and the
3 Triple A affiliate of the Texas Rangers, where he accomplished
4 the designation of most wins as a pitcher in a season with 12;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf retired from professional baseball on
7 February 21, 2016; he continues to work, raise his family,
8 coach, and volunteer; he has attended Newton First Baptist
9 Church for 20 years and teaches the children's church; he has
10 done charity work for military causes such as helping raise
11 money for PTSD veterans; and

12 WHEREAS, Ross Wolf's journey from Newton to the big
13 leagues is a testament to hard work, talent, and perseverance;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Ross Garrett Wolf on being selected to the
18 National Athletic Hall of Fame for 2025; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Ross Wolf at his induction ceremony on November
21 21, 2025 at the Teutopolis Banquet Hall in Teutopolis as a
22 symbol of our respect and esteem.