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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the State of Illinois recognizes individuals who represent our State and nation with excellence, determination, and integrity on the world stage; and

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WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke, a native of Orangeville in the 45th State Senate District, played a pivotal role in leading the United States Women's Olympic Ice Hockey Team to a gold medal victory at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan, Italy; and

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WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke comes from a strong, multigenerational hockey family, including her father, Andrew, her grandfather, Tom, her brothers, Cade and Beau, and her uncles, Dennis and Brett, all of whom have played the sport and helped shape her growth as an athlete from an early age; and

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WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke began playing hockey at a young age with the Monroe Youth Hockey Association in Monroe, Wisconsin, where she competed against older boys, including engaging in full-contact play by age 12, accelerating her progress and preparing her for elite levels of competition; and

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WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke further developed her hockey skills

1 through elite competition with Team Wisconsin AAA, where she
2 competed at the national level and gained recognition from
3 collegiate programs; she later trained at the North American
4 Hockey Academy, an elite preparatory program that helped
5 prepare her for Division I competition; and

6 WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke advanced through USA Hockey
7 development programs and earned selection to the United States
8 Under-18 National Team, further establishing herself among the
9 nation's top young players; and

10 WHEREAS, At Penn State University, Tessa Janecke earned
11 All-American honors and was named a finalist for the Patty
12 Kazmaier Award, which recognizes the top player in NCAA
13 Division I women's hockey; and

14 WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke recorded five assists during the
15 2026 Olympic women's tournament, tying for fourth on Team USA
16 and sixth overall among all women's ice hockey players at the
17 Olympic Winter Games; and

18 WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke tallied two assists in Team USA's
19 5-1 Olympic-opening victory over Czechia on February 5, 2026,
20 setting the tone for a dominant tournament performance; and

21 WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke added assists in three consecutive

1 victories against Italy, Sweden, and Canada, demonstrating
2 consistency, vision, and playmaking ability under the
3 brightest lights in international competition; and

4 WHEREAS, Centering the fourth line for the undefeated
5 squad, Tessa Janecke helped power one of the most dominant
6 Olympic runs in women's ice hockey history, as Team USA
7 outscored its opponents 33-2 en route to the gold medal,
8 marking the third time the United States has claimed Olympic
9 gold in women's ice hockey since the sport became an Olympic
10 event in 1998; and

11 WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke is no stranger to international
12 success, having previously scored the overtime, game-winning
13 goal against Canada to secure gold for Team USA at the 2025
14 International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World
15 Championships; and

16 WHEREAS, Tessa Janecke's dedication, work ethic, and
17 leadership serve as an inspiration to young athletes
18 throughout Orangeville, Warren, and communities across the
19 45th State Senate District; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Tessa
22 Janecke on winning a gold medal as a member of the United

1 States Women's Olympic Ice Hockey Team, and we commend her for
2 representing Illinois and our nation with distinction; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That we wish Tessa Janecke continued success,
5 including in her pursuit of achieving a national championship
6 at Penn State University; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Tessa Janecke as an expression of our esteem and
9 respect.