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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Loyola University Chicago Men's Basketball team for their magnificent season this year; and

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WHEREAS, The Ramblers compiled a record of 28 wins and 5 loses during the regular season and advanced to the NCAA Basketball Tournament for the first time since 1985; and

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WHEREAS, Led by Head Coach Porter Moser, the Ramblers won the Missouri Valley Conference by defeating Illinois State University in the championship game 65 to 49 on March 4; Loyola ended the regular season on a ten-game winning streak; and

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WHEREAS, As a result of Loyola's great regular season, Porter Moser was voted Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year; and

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WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago has been a member of the Missouri Valley Conference since July 1, 2013; prior to that, Loyola was in the Horizon League for 34 years as a charter member; and

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WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago received an invitation

1 to the NCAA Tournament and was the eleventh seed in the South
2 Region; in the first round, on March 15, their opponent, the
3 University of Miami, Florida, was the sixth seed; it was a
4 close game, with the Rambler's Donte Ingram hitting a
5 three-point shot with only three-tenths of a second left,
6 giving Loyola the win, 64 to 62; and

7 WHEREAS, In the second round (the Round of 32) on March 17,
8 Loyola faced the University of Tennessee, which was the third
9 seed in the South Region; in another close contest, Loyola's
10 Clayton Custer hit a fifteen-foot jumper with 3.6 seconds left
11 in the game to seal the victory for the Ramblers, 63 to 62;
12 this would not be Custer's Last Stand; and

13 WHEREAS, This has been another great season for Mr. Custer;
14 his honors include being named the Larry Bird Player of the
15 Year in the Missouri Valley Conference, and he was also named
16 as a First Team Scholar-Athlete in the Missouri Valley
17 Conference; other highlights this season for Clayton include:
18 Associated Press Honorable Mention All-America, CoSIDA
19 Academic All-District, and the Lou Henson Award; Clayton and
20 Donte Ingram were named NABC All-District 16; Cameron Krutwig
21 was named MVC Freshman of the Year; Ben Richardson and Clayton
22 Custer were each named as a MVC First Team Scholar-Athlete and
23 Division I-AAA Scholar-Athlete; and

1 WHEREAS, In the third round (the Sweet Sixteen) of the NCAA
2 Tournament on March 22, Loyola's opponent was the University of
3 Nevada, Las Vegas, ranked as the seventh seed in the South
4 Region; the Ramblers played with great enthusiasm and precision
5 as time and time again they moved the ball to the basket;
6 Marques Townes had an outstanding game, scoring 18 points
7 including a 3-pointer with 6.3 seconds left in the game when
8 Loyola was ahead by one point; with a four-point lead, the
9 Ramblers held on to win 69 to 68; and

10 WHEREAS, In the fourth round (the Elite Eight) on March 24,
11 the Ramblers played Kansas State University, ranked as the
12 ninth seed in the South Region; teamwork once again was
13 paramount in how Loyola played; like the three previous
14 tournament games, "a star was born"; this time it was Ben
15 Richardson who scored 23 points, including six of seven
16 three-pointers; his superb offensive performance added to his
17 already illustrious reputation; Mr. Richardson had been named
18 the Missouri Valley Conference's Defensive Player of the Year;
19 he was named as a First Team Scholar-Athlete in the Missouri
20 Valley Conference, and he was also honored as the South
21 Region's Most Outstanding Player in the NCAA Tournament; by
22 virtue of its victory over Kansas State, 78 to 62, Loyola won
23 the South Region and moved on to the Final Four for the first
24 time since 1963 and extended its winning streak to fourteen,
25 the longest of any team in the tournament; and

1 WHEREAS, In the fifth round (the Final Four), held on March
2 31, Loyola's opponent was the University of Michigan, ranked as
3 the third seed in the West Region; the Ramblers played with a
4 lot of heart and led at halftime 29 to 22; this was an
5 incredible effort by Loyola given how powerful Michigan's
6 offense had been all season; however, with about 6 minutes left
7 in the game, Michigan took the lead and ended up with a
8 victory; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout Loyola's NCAA Tournament run, Sister
10 Jean Dolores Schmidt was a delight and an inspiration to the
11 team; as Team Chaplain, "Sister Jean" (as she is affectionately
12 known) inspired and motivated the Loyola Ramblers in
13 immeasurable ways; she has been a Sister in the religious order
14 of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin (BVM) since
15 1937 and has been Team Chaplain since 1996; now at the age of
16 98, she cemented the team ethos with her signature phrase:
17 "Worship, Work and Win"; in addition to her other honors,
18 Sister Jean had bestowed upon her one of the greatest of sports
19 honors, a bobblehead doll from the National Bobblehead Hall of
20 Fame and Museum; pre-orders have already surpassed the 15,000
21 mark, making her Bobblehead the biggest seller of all time by
22 far; by the end of the tournament it was safe to say that
23 Sister Jean was not just Loyola's treasure, but the nation's as
24 well; and

1 WHEREAS, Other Loyola University highlights for the season
2 include: a school record 32 wins, finishing the season ranked
3 No. 7 in the USA Today Coaches Poll, first outright
4 regular-season conference championship since 1985, first NCAA
5 Tournament appearance since 1985, first NCAA Final Four
6 appearance since 1963, and only the fourth No. 11 seed in NCAA
7 Tournament history to reach the Final Four; during the season
8 they defeated four nationally ranked teams: Florida, Miami,
9 Tennessee, and Nevada; Loyola Athletics ranked No. 1 in the
10 NCAA for the second straight year with a 99% graduation success
11 rate; and

12 WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago has a long and storied
13 history in basketball; in 1963, Loyola broke with college
14 basketball's unwritten rule that no team should have more than
15 two black players on the court at any given time; in so doing,
16 they created a national conversation on race which led to the
17 elimination of the limit on black players' court time; on March
18 15, 1963, in the NCAA Tournament, Loyola played Mississippi
19 State University; the governor of Mississippi had instructed
20 the all-white Mississippi State team not to play against an
21 integrated team; their coach and players refused to follow the
22 instruction, and the game became known as the Game of Change;
23 Loyola would go on to defeat the two-time defending champion,
24 the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (ranked number one in the

1 nation), to win the national championship; Loyola remains the
2 only Illinois school to ever win the NCAA Basketball Title; and

3 WHEREAS, Loyola University Chicago is a Jesuit school
4 founded in 1870; its main campus, known as the Lake Shore
5 Campus, is in the Rogers Park neighborhood on the northeast
6 side, while its downtown campus, known as the Water Tower
7 Campus, is next to Chicago's famed Magnificent Mile; Loyola has
8 an enrollment of more than 16,000 students and boasts 150,000
9 alumni, 85,000 of whom are in the Chicago area; team members
10 volunteer at Misericordia Heart of Mercy; and

11 WHEREAS, As a Jesuit school, Loyola takes seriously its
12 role in shaping students' lives; this is especially true of
13 student-athletes, many of whom will never play professional
14 sports; the degree they earn at Loyola is meaningful because of
15 the school's commitment to their education, which takes the
16 form of mentoring and tutoring to help guide them through a
17 rigorous academic and athletic schedule; student-athletes at
18 Loyola have a graduation rate of 99%; only five other schools
19 in Division I sports have a graduation rate that high, four of
20 them in the Ivy League; and

21 WHEREAS, All of Illinois is grateful and honored for the
22 positive national attention brought to Loyola University and
23 the City of Chicago; the Loyola University Men's Basketball

1 team had a thrilling season made noteworthy by its first
2 appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1985 and by making it
3 to the Final Four for the first time since 1963; Head Coach
4 Porter Moser and the entire group of players: Adarius Avery,
5 Jake Baughman, Dylan Boehm, Clayton Custer, Nick Dinardi, Donte
6 Ingram, Aundre Jackson, Cameron Krutwig, Christian Negrón, Ben
7 Richardson, Cameron Satterwhite, Carson Shanks, Bruno Skokna,
8 Marques Townes, Aher Uguak, and Lucas Williamson are rightly
9 proud of their season and accomplishments; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 congratulate the Loyola University Chicago Men's basketball
13 team for its great season and its tremendous success in the
14 NCAA Tournament; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Coach Porter Moser as a token of our esteem and
17 good wishes.