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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize Chicago Cubs legend and Major
4 League Baseball Hall of Famer Lee Smith on the occasion of Lee
5 Smith Day at Wrigley Field; and

6 WHEREAS, Lee Smith was inducted into the National Baseball
7 Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York on July 21, 2019,
8 becoming the 52nd Chicago Cub to earn baseball's ultimate
9 honor; and

10 WHEREAS, Lee Smith was born on December 4, 1957 in
11 Jamestown, Louisiana and was a standout athlete at Castor High
12 School, lettering in baseball, basketball, and track; he was
13 drafted and signed by the Chicago Cubs in 1975 and made his
14 Major League debut on September 1, 1980; and

15 WHEREAS, Lee Smith played eight seasons with the Chicago
16 Cubs (1980-1987) during his 18-year Major League career;
17 originally a middle reliever and then a starting pitcher, he
18 was given the closer role in July of 1982; known for his slow,
19 intimidating walk to the pitcher's mound, his steely glare at
20 the batter, and a blazing fastball, he developed into one of
21 the most dominating closers in baseball history; and

1 WHEREAS, Lee Smith led the Chicago Cubs in saves a
2 franchise-best six consecutive seasons, including the 1984
3 season, helping secure the National League Eastern Division
4 title and the club's first postseason appearance in 39 years;
5 he was named Chicago Player of the Year in 1986 by the Chicago
6 Chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America and
7 remains to this day the club's all-time saves leader with 180,
8 with 60% of his saves consisting of more than three outs;
9 additionally, he is second in relief appearances (452) and
10 third in games pitched (458) for the Chicago Cubs; and

11 WHEREAS, Lee Smith ended his career in 1997 as Major League
12 Baseball's all-time saves leader with 478 (currently third on
13 the all-time saves list) and is 12th in games pitched; he was a
14 seven-time all-star and led his league in saves four times,
15 earning at least 30 saves in 10 big league seasons; and

16 WHEREAS, Lee Smith was honored in 1999 as a member of the
17 Chicago Cubs All-Century Team; a fierce and dominant competitor
18 on the field, he is affectionately known as "Big Lee" and
19 remains loved by fans, an immensely popular Wrigley Field
20 legend and fan-friendly member of the Chicago Cubs family;
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
23 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Lee Smith on his Hall of Fame career and his
2 eight seasons as a Chicago Cub; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we declare September 1, 2019 as "Lee Smith
4 Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 presented to Lee Smith and the Chicago Cubs as a symbol of our
7 respect.