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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the contributions that
4 Darius Sanders has made to the sport of artistic skating; and

5 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders developed a passion for roller
6 skating while watching his mother perform at a local roller
7 rink at the age of five; observing his mother and her friends
8 skate motivated him to put on his first pair of skates; and

9 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders's talent as a roller skater was
10 noticed by Julie Jessup, who became his coach and introduced
11 him to Samantha Krusza in 2013; soon thereafter, the duo would
12 form an inseparable skating partnership; and

13 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders and Samantha Krusza have competed
14 in numerous roller skating competitions and skate shows; the
15 duo finished first in the 2015 Figure National Championship in
16 the juvenile division; together, they have competed in the
17 U.S. National Figure Roller Skating Competition, where they
18 placed first, and the World Figure Artistic Roller Skating
19 Championship, where they placed fourth; his biggest moment was
20 when he and Samantha made it to the 2018 Artistic Skating World
21 Championships; and

1 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders has won more than 121 medals; he
2 is currently ranked as one of the top African-American roller
3 skaters in the world; he has traveled and competed in places
4 such as Barcelona, Spain and Paris, France; the U.S. National
5 Figure Roller Skating Committee has ranked him and Samantha
6 Krusza as first in the nation as couple skaters; and

7 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders is a member of U.S. Roller Sports
8 and a team member of the U.S. Olympic Team as of 2020; and

9 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders's goal is for the sport to become
10 an official event at the 2024 Olympics; and

11 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders is the son of Phillip and
12 Cassandra Sanders who reside in the Washington Heights
13 neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago; he attended Butler
14 College Prep; and

15 WHEREAS, Darius Sanders wants to inspire other Chicago
16 youth to try different sports and hobbies to help keep them off
17 the streets and to encourage more Black kids to try the sport
18 of artistic skating; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we wish to recognize the contributions that Darius Sanders has

1 made to the sport of artistic skating; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Darius Sanders as a symbol of our respect and
4 esteem.