

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
100th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

22nd Legislative Day

3/8/2017

Speaker Lang: "The House will be in order. Members will be in their chairs. Cub fans, Sox fans, and Cardinal fans. We shall be led in prayer today by Rabbi Michael Siegel who's with Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago. Rabbi Siegel is the guest of Representative Feigenholtz. Members and guests are asked to refrain from starting their laptops, turn off cell phones and rise for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Rabbi Siegel."

Rabbi Siegel: "Let me begin by saying how blessed we are in Lakeview to have Representative Sara Feigenholtz lead us and represent us so ably. Thank you for all you do. Good morning. As the senior Rabbi of the Anshe Emet Synagogue, the closest Jewish congregation to Wrigley Field, I have witnessed the fervent prayer of the faithful. I have shared the agony of impassioned supplication that has gone for years unanswered. I know what it's like to have one's faith tested and be bereft of comforting words for a community suffering heartbreak. Over the years I have gained new appreciation from Moses who must have wondered on many occasions what miracle it would take to get to the promise land. And they only had to wait 40 years. But the day has come. The sea has split or so it seems on the other side of a rain delay. Men wearing Cubbie blue snatched victory from the closing jaws of defeat. It may not have been a miracle worthy of the *Bible*, but it sure felt like a wondrous event to us. Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel, famously said, 'Anyone who does not believe in miracles is not a realist.' The Cubs made realists of all of us of the best kind. Believers who were forced to give up on billy goats and curses and appreciate

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the true power of teamwork and remarkable skill. Believers who witnessed a team that embodied humility, perseverance, selflessness and a burning desire to win the World Series on the north side of the city that waited more than a century for such a day when a group of baseball players held up a trophy and all of us aloft, high in the air, all by virtue of a man-made miracle. So, let us ask the Almighty to help us properly express the joy they have given us. Grant us the wisdom to be inspired by a remarkable team. Grant us the courage to learn that all of us are capable of creating our own miracles if we have the will to work together, the humility necessary to put the needs of others before our own. Grant us the vision to see what can be as opposed to what has always been. Who knows, maybe this august Body will be realistic enough to engage what would feel like a true miracle, a budget for the State of Illinois. (Speaks Hebrew) As I praise to You, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and helped us to reach this miraculous day. And let us say, holy cow. I meant, Amen."

Speaker Lang: "We'll be led in the Pledge today by none other than Representative Feigenholtz."

Feigenholtz - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Lang: "Roll Call for Attendance. Leader Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that there are no House Democrats who are excused today."

Speaker Lang: "Mr. Demmer."

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Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please excuse Representative Welter for the day."

Speaker Lang: "Please record yourselves, Members. Mr. Clerk, take the record. There are 116 Members present, we do have a quorum. House Joint Resolution 33. Leader Feigenholtz moves to adopt the Resolution. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Speaker Madigan in the Chair."

Speaker Madigan: "The regular Session will stand in recess. The Doorkeeper is recognized for an announcement."

Doorkeeper Crawford: "Mr. Speaker, the Honorable President Cullerton and Members of the Senate are at the door and seek admission to the chamber."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Doorkeeper, please admit the Honorable Senators. As designated in House Joint... House Joint Resolution #35, the hour of 11:00 a.m. having arrived, this Joint Session of the 100th General Assembly will now come to order. Will the Members of the House and our guests from the Senate please take their seats? Mr. Clerk, is a quorum of the House present?"

Clerk Hollman: "A quorum of the House is present."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. President, is a quorum of the Senate present in this chamber?"

President Cullerton: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A quorum of the Senate is present."

Speaker Madigan: "There being a quorum of the House and a quorum of the Senate in attendance, this Joint Session is convened. We'd like to acknowledge certain dignitaries that have joined us today. The Secretary of State of Illinois, former Cubs

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player, Jesse White. The Attorney General of Illinois, long time Cubs fan, Lisa Madigan. Treasurer of the State of Illinois, I'm not sure of his baseball loyalties, Mike Frerichs. The Chair recognizes the Majority Leader, Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. I move for the adoption of Joint Session Resolution 3."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Clerk, read Joint Session Resolution #3."

Clerk Hollman: "Joint Session Resolution #3.

RESOLVED, That a committee of six be appointed, three from the House by the Speaker of the House and three from the Senate by the President of the Senate, to welcome the members of the Chicago Cubs organization and invite them to address the Joint Assembly."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie has moved for the adoption of the Resolution. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Pursuant to the Resolution, the following are appointed as a committee to escort the members of the Chicago Cubs organization. The appointments from the House are Representative Chapa LaVia, Representative Chris Welch, Representative Michael McAuliffe."

President Cullerton: "The appointments from the Senate are Senator Don Harmon, Senator Ira Silverstein, and Senator Sue Rezin."

Speaker Madigan: "Will the Committee of Escort please convene at the rear of the chamber and await the members of the Chicago Cubs organization. The Chair recognizes Mr. Durkin."

Durkin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Madigan: "State your point."

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Durkin: "Thank you. I'm very excited to have the Chicago Cubs organization here today. Speaking as a lifelong White Sox fan, and I believe that you are as well, so I would feel remiss if I not make the following statement, which would basically going back to my roots. So, with respect to Joint Session Resolution Senate... Session Resolution #3, I would ask for a Roll Call vote and a verification if there is... requisite votes are on the board."

Speaker Madigan: "We'll take your Motion under advisement. The Doorkeeper is recognized for an announcement."

Doorkeeper Crawford: "Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Chicago Cubs organization, Tom Ricketts, and his party wish to be admitted to this chamber."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Doorkeeper, admit the honorable gentleman and his party. We would like to advise the Members that there will be ample opportunity for picture taking, so if everybody could please take their seats. If Representative Chapa LaVia could take her seat. Mr. Clerk, would you please read House Joint Resolution 33. Ladies and Gentlemen, please give your attention to the Clerk."

Clerk Hollman: "House Joint Resolution 33, offered by Representative Feigenholtz.

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the World Champion Chicago Cubs on winning an epic World Series on November 3, 2016; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs last won the World Series in 1907 and 1908; they last appeared in the World Series in 1945; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs compiled a record of 103 wins and 58 losses during the 2016 season; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs fielded the entire starting infield for the 2016 MLB All-Star Game; this marked the first time a National League team had done so since 1963; they had seven players selected, Jake Arrieta, Kris Bryant, Dexter Fowler, Jon Lester, Anthony Rizzo, Addison Russell, and Ben Zobrist; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs won the division championship with a 17.5 game lead; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs eliminated the San Francisco Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers in the playoffs to advance to the World Series; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs defeated the Cleveland Indians in a historic and dramatic World Series Game 7 that went into extra innings, ending with a score of 8 to 7 in the 10th; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs rallied from a deficit of three games to one, a feat only accomplished by five other teams in World Series history; and

WHEREAS, A victory parade and rally was held for the Chicago Cubs on November 4, 2016, drawing five million fans, making it the seventh largest known gathering in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, The Chicago Cubs have the greatest and most loyal fans in the world; with its historic scoreboard and green ivy, Wrigley Field is one of the greatest places to watch a ball game; Manager Joe Maddon has said that "playing in Wrigley Field is magical"; and

WHEREAS, The Ricketts family, Crane Kenney and the entire Cubs front office, and Theo Epstein should be praised for bringing together such an amazing team and for setting the Chicago

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Cubs on a course for continued success for many years to come;  
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE  
CONCURRING HEREIN, that we congratulate the Chicago Cubs on  
winning the 2016 World Series; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we congratulate Manager Joe Maddon on guiding  
the Chicago Cubs to the championship with his zen leadership,  
convincing both players and fans to look forward not  
backwards, to think positively, and to "Do simple better";  
and be it further

RESOLVED, That we designate March 8, 2017 "Chicago Cubs World  
Series Champions Day"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented  
to members of the Chicago Cubs organization."

Speaker Madigan: "The Chair recognizes Representative  
Feigenholtz."

Feigenholtz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House.  
I'd like to welcome Tom Ricketts, Mike Lufrano, Ryne Sandberg,  
people in the front office who work day and night. And last  
but not least, my Rabbi, Rabbi Siegel, who honored us with  
quite the blessing today. I know, or I hope, that I also speak  
for Senate President Cullerton, my Senator, the Senator of  
Wrigley Field, that we both have been in this chamber  
celebrating with Members who are fans of the White Sox as  
well as the St. Louis Cardinals, and we know how this feels.  
So, I beg your indulgence today. I'm going to ask for leave  
from Cub Nation to speak on their behalf about the profound  
meaning of this World Championship Trophy and what it means

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for our beloved Cubs and their millions of fans and the significance of this World Championship Trophy. In honor of them, I brought a photo of my father to represent the parents of all of Cub Nation who are no longer with us. Who when we were small children, we sat on their knee watching or listening to the Cubs, bestowing upon us the love of baseball. This trophy honors those fans, the ones who clung to this team... the ones who clung to this team as a cultural inheritance waiting patiently for this championship moment. The once national joke has finally ended after this 108-year legendary losing streak which is now history. Cub fans, this actually did happen. Our moment has arrived, yet, we all have vivid memories and wish that the departed generations of Cub fans were here to, as my bubby would have said, kvell in this moment. Back home in the 12th District of Lakeview which is now known as Wrigleyville, the Cubs former quaint ball club has been transformed into this Major League giant since being acquired by the Ricketts family. The millions of dollars they have invested into building this team, bringing Theo Epstein from Boston, Joe Maddon from Tampa and the scores of star, amazing players demonstrates the resolve to build a first class baseball club and to get to yes. The Cubs are the economic engine of my neighborhood, bringing hundreds of thousands of tourists into the area and revenue into the City of Chicago. Cubs Care, the Cubs charitable arm, has been giving back to the community funding not-for-profit programs and investing in children and families. Ladies and Gentlemen, while the country was witnessing the most divisive Presidential campaign, our Cubs brought youthfulness,



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diversion, grit, hard work to our city, bringing us all together. The 40 million viewers who watched Game 7 and the 5 million people who came to Chicago to join the parade and join in the rally were from all parts of the state, all parts of the country, probably all parts of the world, representing all races, all income levels. They were Independents, Republicans, Democrats, but we know one thing they were united over, they were all Cub fans. My Rabbi... I find it very interesting that our closing remarks are very similar. I was thinking how wonderful comments we would have heard today from Theo Epstein and from Joe Maddon, the zen manager of the Chicago Cubs. They would probably talk to us about how we shouldn't look back, how we should only look forward, how we should remove all negative thoughts from our mind and hard feelings, and bridge our differences and get to a budget. And so, Cub fans, let's celebrate today because as my dear friend, Patricia 'Comiskey' Bellock once said to me, Sara, this championship is your destiny. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "Chair recognizes Mr. McAuliffe."

McAuliffe: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to the Chicago Cubs and their whole organization from top to bottom. As a lifelong Cub fan, taking the bus down Belmont Avenue with my grandmother... see Fergie Jenkins and Bob Gibson pitch one of those games that took 2 minutes to the games that we're celebrating now, especially in the World Series. It's just... it's just tremendous. This fall I notice while I was visiting my neighborhoods, every day, every week, more people started displaying Cub items. Whether it was a Cub flag, a big flag, a smaller flag, people united just like Representative

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Feigenholtz said. Democrats, Republicans, Liberals, conservatives, they all were on one thing, the Cubs. You awoke Chicago and a whole nation. I had the opportunity to mail out some 'W' flags, which I would still say are in at least a thousand households. I know they're only supposed to fly it after the Cubs win, but people are so proud of the Chicago Cubs just like I am. I even visited a school last week and noticed that the 'W' was still in one of the classrooms. What... what the Cubs mean to me and I think to the City of Chicago is hope. There's always hope. It's also relief and relaxation for senior citizens. Twenty-one years ago, I started a Cub outing. And what I did was I got senior citizens, pretty much widows, that still wanted to go to the Cubs game but maybe didn't have the opportunity. We would take a bus and for 21 years we will go down to Wrigley Field and they would... the seniors and myself would enjoy the game. I think the highlight was when Cardinal George sings *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, and they thought I had something to do with it. But it's just relief, I mean, memories. I remember my father calling when at 22... I think the 19... (sic-1976) Cub game when Schmidt hit four homeruns. He called about six times asking what the score was, what the score was. Of course, back then you didn't have the Internet and I kept telling him the Cubs are coming back. Kingman's hitting homeruns; Mike Schmidt's hitting homeruns. And those are some of the memories that I have here in the House and back at our home. But congratulations to you, the Cubs organization, for all the hope that you gave to everybody, not just in the City of Chicago and the suburbs and the whole State of Illinois but to the whole country. We

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needed you then and we need you again this year to bring the trophy back to Chicago. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker and Members of the House. Although I am a Southsider, my extended family bleeds Cubbie blue. We treasure the three great virtues: faith, hope, and charity. And the greatest of these, says my brother Terry, is Rizzo. And yes, that would be Anthony Rizzo, first baseman, splendid citizen, number 44. Go Cubs."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Demmer."

Demmer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the course of the Cubs historic run this fall, I think I had an experience that many people across the State of Illinois and across the country had and that was an exchange of family stories and the discussions of how everybody has a family history that's connected to the Cubs. Everybody who was Cubs fans it does. My connection goes back to 1947, Labor Day weekend 1947. My Grandma and Grandpa Demmer, Leo and Stella Demmer, lived on a farm just outside Dubuque, Iowa. They got married that weekend and they decided to spend their honeymoon in Chicago. So, they took a train into the city and were fortunate enough to see not one but two Cubs games. What better way to celebrate a honeymoon than that. We saw the pictures; we had family talks about this; we saw the scoreboard, the same ivy. All these things that unite a family. So, from 1947 then to today, I'm privileged to be joined by my... my mother, my wife, and my daughter, Katherine Addison Demmer, in the gallery. She's only three months old. She's had excellent experience so far as a Cubs fan. I... I hope she doesn't have to wait as

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long as I did to see another one of these trophies here today. In my office I have on the wall, hanging, a 'W' flag. And it's one of the flags... it's blue background, the names are in white, and all the names of the members of the team spell out that 'W'. And I think that's such a powerful message about how the Cubs were able to do this, how the Cubs were able to bring this trophy here today. Without any one of those names, the 'W' wouldn't be complete. Without any one of those contributions, the win wouldn't have been there. So, that message, I think, can resonate here in Springfield with all of us as well. We win together. We win when we stand together. Those kind of messages, that kind of excitement and enthusiasm, that's the enduring Cubs legacy. That's what can bring us all together. Mr. Speaker, I can't believe we're here today looking at the Cubs World Series Trophy. Go Cubs go."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Lilly."

Lilly: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen. I am standing and rising on behalf of my grandmother, who is 102. And she would like to tell you, congratulations to all the fans of Chicago Cubs, the owners, the coaches. Chicago, Illinois, congratulations. Her first time to the park was at the age of 100 and she received from the Cubs her own jersey. She wants to say thank you. Her second time to the park was at 102. Spending two years coaching the team, she had to get back to the park. She wants to say, I am proud of each and every one of us who stood by 'my' Cubs for 108 years of which I stood by 102. She says, thank you, Cubs. Go Cubs go."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Butler."

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Butler: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Ricketts family and to Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg and to everyone involved with the Cubs organization, thank you, thank you, thank you for investing in Cubs' fans and investing in the Chicago Cubs and bringing home a World Champion. If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be here today. So, thank you very much for what you've done on behalf of Cub Nation. I'm proud to be... live here in Springfield, as I believe the southern-most Member of the House Cubs Caucus, 90 miles from St. Louis. And I just... I would be remiss if I did not add that how proud I was to see a central Illinois native in Ben Zobrist be the World Series MVP. Somebody from our own... Yeah. Mr. Bennett, Tom Bennett, did a Resolution to honor Zobrist, but I just have to remind Cardinal fans that Ben Zobrist grew up a Cardinal fan in Eureka, Illinois. His family are Cardinal fans and he's now won two world titles with your two greatest enemies, the Kansas City Royals and the Chicago Cubs. Finally, let me just say, everybody's talked about their family connections. My dad died in 2005, too soon to see it, but today I'm proud to have a friend of mine in the gallery, Karen Witter and her parents, Margaret and Ray Ackerman, who's up behind over my right shoulder over here. Ray's in a wheelchair; he's 99 years old. Ray's a state retiree; he put 31 years in working for the Department of Transportation. And I was told this morning he has his Cub Fan Club card from 1920-something in his... in his wallet still, '28, 1928. So, Ray, for you, we're going to bring you back next year when you're a hundred and do this all over again with another world title. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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Speaker Madigan: "Representative Welch."

Welch: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise on a floor that I've risen many times before, but I have to say that this is an honor of a lifetime. As a kid who grew up on WGN-TV in the western suburbs watching Ryne Sandberg in 1984 go on to become the National League MVP. As a kid in seventh grade watching that same team break our heart in San Diego. But seeing Ryne Sandberg here in front of my seat here on the House Floor today, watching those Cubs in '89 and '98 and 2003 break our hearts. I never thought this day would come. You know, on behalf of my grandfather, Ruben Daniels, who made me watch the Cubs on WGN-TV, my diehard mom, Willie Welch, and my wife who goes to every game with me at Wrigley Field today, and my four-year-old Ryno, who knows the lyrics to *Go Cubs Go* and said the Cubs would win the World Series in 2016, I want to say thank you. Thank you, Mr. Ricketts, because in 2015, Tyler and I were at a game and you personally gave him a ball. That season from the heartbreaker of that 2015 season. You know, we just knew that greater things were ahead. And sure enough in 2016, we were all able to witness what they said would never ever happen. So, I want to thank you again, Mr. Ricketts and the entire Chicago Cubs organization. Thank you for making Chicago, once again, the city of champions. Thank you for making us Cub fans be proud to wear our hats on the House Floor. Thank you for everything that you do and here's to rooting on another World Series Champion in 2017."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to congratulate the Ricketts family, also, on just such

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a wonderful, wonderful championship for the City of Chicago to enjoy and to also to all the team members. And just briefly, I don't... I very rarely talk about my family, but since everybody's been talking about their heritage in the family, I would have to say I'm born and bred White Sox since my mother was Dorothy Comiskey, the son (sic-daughter) of Grace Comiskey of Charles Comiskey and Louis Comiskey and all the way back. So, I've spent all my life at a baseball game until I was about 20 years old. Not going to dances at night, I was at the Yankees game or the Boston game. So, I understand what it is for a family to be behind a team. And we just thank you so much for what you've done. And speaking as a White Sox fan and my father a pitcher for the Chicago White Sox, it's been an honor to celebrate this with you. And what you have done to the whole City of Chicago and the State of Illinois and all the White Sox fans, Cardinal fans, Cubs fans because baseball does bring everybody together. And the love of the game of the baseball is what it's all about and we're hoping... you have rekindled our hope... to bring the crosstown series back to Chicago, maybe not next year but within the next couple of years. So, thank you, again, for this celebration and the honor that my parents never celebrated in seeing those Sox win a World Series, and the Cubs win a World Series and what that has brought back to our state and to our City of Chicago. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Zalewski."

Zalewski: "Mr. Speaker, Representative Bellock stole most of my thunder. As you can tell by my choice of neckwear today, this has been a particular difficult time for Sox fans over the

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last few months. My colleagues and my family will tell you we haven't been taking it very well, but I will say to the Ricketts family imitation is the sincerest form of flattery and the Southside seems to have taken your approach and modeled the future of their organization to what they want to do on the south side. We... I watched every single game last year and as much as I wanted to hate the Chicago Cubs being in the World Series, it was riveting baseball. They played with a lot of sportsmanship and pride and skill. Congratulations to the Chicago Cubs. Thanks for bringing the World Series back to Chicago."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Reick."

Reick: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was so many of us in this building whose first memories or favorite memories of our parents is going to a ballgame. When my dad died 20 years ago, the Cubs sent a floral arrangement to the funeral home and on the card it said, we told you not to hold your breath. My dad blamed Ron Santos till his dying day for the collapse of the 1969 Cubs. And I know that when Ron Santos crossed through the Pearly Gates, the first person he met was my old man. My childhood rebellion against my parents was that I grew up in Kankakee as a White Sox and a Cardinal fan, to which I am this day, proudly. Bob Elson, Michael Hamilton, Lloyd Pettit, Jack Brickhouse, those people were the... were the scribes of my life. I listened to every game. So, to the Ricketts... to the Ricketts family and the Cubs organization, I hope I speak on behalf of the White Sox fans, state and nationwide, as well as Cardinal Nation, when I say, we wish you well. We can't necessary wish you luck, but with the



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characteristic grit of Chicago's gritty baseball team and the characteristic good graces of Cardinal Nation, congratulations. Welcome. Hope to see you again in another 108 years."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Chapa LaVia."

Chapa LaVia: "Ah speechless. This is the greatest day of my life next to having both my kids, is seeing the Speaker up there, presiding over the House, now... the Joint Session. I got you. I see the tie, Speaker. First of all, let me hold this up. Speaker, can you see this now? Wait, wait, wait. Sorry, Speaker, it gets worse. So, my very first encounter with the Speaker at a convention, he had all of his Sox gear on and I had all of my Cubs gear on. And there's a brilliant picture of the two of us in Boston somewhere. It's phenomenal. With the bottom of my heart, though, thank you, Speaker. And Tim, you guys... Mr. Mapes, you guys did a great job of putting this on. So, my history comes back to my grandmother. She... my parents were cotton pickers from Texas and my grandmother would scrounge together some money and visit us here in Illinois. And one of the first things we would do when I was four years old, would be... it's usually the summertime she'd visit us, we'd go see the Cubs play. And we didn't have a lot of money, so we were always really, really, really high up in the... I mean, like, the nosebleed seats. But the joy that it brought to my family, that's American. We talk about apple pie, baseball and things like that. And... and the reason why she... my grandmother loved the Cubs so much and still 'til now, still loved the Cubs, it's not only they were the underdog, it was that there was a Hispanic history about it.

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There were Latino players where we didn't see so many everywhere else, to show us pride in our culture and where we come from and the people that we come from. And I think the very first player was actually with the... with the Cubs was Cubano. I think it was Gonzales; I can't remember now. But what an honor. Ricketts family, you need to pay me for promoting you for 15 years and this shirt all over this country. I've even wore it... worn it to the Sox park when I actually had an event there and got harassed, but I didn't mind. But I just want to say, you know, during that time, also, we had a death in the family. My brother actually passed away the Wednesday before, you know, the great stuff going on, and the Speaker called me and he's like, you know, you've got to spend time with your family. But together, over all the ups and downs in our family and throughout, you know, I'm sure your families too, the thing that we could come to agreement on is always the Cubs and always watching them and knowing that some of the best memories in our life revolve around the Cubbies, win or lose. We'd say it doesn't matter, we just want to be at the park. But I'm so glad after 108 years we can be prouder of not only Chicago, 'cause I'm proud of this Sox, sometimes, but... that it brought a nation together when we were so... and in a time that was very divisive with this country, it brought a nation together and people did come from all over the world. So, thank you, Speaker, from the bottom of my heart for arranging this. Mr. Mapes, I owe you big time. I'll send you some chocolate. But I'll be looking for my... my check from you, the Ricketts family,

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'cause, you know, I've done a lot of advertisement for you over the years. But the last thing is go Cubs go."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Cassidy."

Cassidy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm one of those cable TV kids. I grew up in Florida watching the Cubs on cable with my dad and my love of this team and of this sport came about largely because it was one of the few things we didn't fight about. And I am so grateful to have shared this with my dad. I'm so sorry that he didn't live to see this happen. It would have been really fun to... to have been able to fully experience it all with him. I've passed my love of baseball on to my sons. I have a set of twins who are actually divided on the topic, or at least they were. Bandwagon jumpers are always welcome. I'm wearing the former White Sox twin's jersey today. Daniel switched teams with us and is now a big Javier Baez fan. Ethan is the king of the managers and is ready to help Joe out any time he needs it. He's got some ideas on trades. Just let us know, he'll be there. Along with Representative Feigenholtz, we have hosted a party here for the last several years as the Cubs Caucus. I always bring down Kosher dogs from Armenian Kosher in my district. I think I'm going to need a lot more hot dogs now, but we will be happy to accommodate anyone who wants to join us in Cubs Nation. It is... it's a very special place to be. And finally, I want to recognize my... my partner who's in the gallery. Our courtship played out through 20 years of friendship at Cubs games. I introduced Candace to the Cubs and we... every time they came into town, we would go to a game and eventually friendship turned to love and I'm so thrilled that we got to share this championship together and

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that you got to be here today. So, thank you to the Cubs for all you've given me and for all you've given to my family and for all you've given to our state. Thank you for being here and go Cubs."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Davis."

Davis, W.: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was not sure whether or not I would speak or not, but as others have, talking about their history or feelings about the organization, I thought, well, why not share my feelings about it as well. So, often as a south suburban Rep, I'm often asked whether you are a Sox fan or a Cubs fan. It may be a difficult question to answer because I do like attending games in both stadiums. But I often reflect, though, as a kid growing up in the late '70s, the only team on TV were the Cubs. I'd be able to run home after school, catch a 3:20 start game, maybe get there by the second or third inning, and plop right down in front of the TV to watch who at the time was one of my favorite characters... Cubs' players, was a guy named Jose Cardenal, who will be rounding third and because he had such a huge afro, his helmet would always fly off. But nevertheless, not that I was a kid that played baseball, but I am a big fan of sports. And so, the Cubs were very much a part of my growing up as a kid being able to watch them on WGN every day where the light blue with red pinstripe unis, if anybody's familiar with their uniform. So, I'm pleased and honored to be here today to share in this experience and thank all of those who had a hand in setting it up so I could celebrate with the Chicago Cubs and their... and their World Series victory. Thank you."

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Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Sauer."

Sauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Mr. Ricketts and to the whole Cubs organization for bringing this home for Chicago and the whole country. My folks grew up in San Diego and they didn't know it when they got married and moved to Chicago, but one was a White Sox fan and one was a Cubs fan. So, they fought over us kids. My younger brother's here today. Mom won out and we wear Cubbie blue. And my favorite memory of the Cubs organization is being at Wrigley Field as a crosstown classic game in which Ron Santos walked out of the booth, as we walked out from the concession stand area, and my brother and I said, can we get a quick picture with you? And he said, absolutely. So we... he put his arms around both of us and dad lined up the camera underneath his Sox hat and Ron said, wait a second, wait a second. Is this your dad? And my mother said, yes, Sir, my boys were raised right. So, thank you to the Cubs organization and thanks, mom."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bennett."

Bennett: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly amazing. I don't have to wait 'til next year. I don't have to wait 'til next year. The Cubs have won this time. That's tremendous. It's an amazing feeling; it's an amazing year. My district has a very special fondness for Ben Zobrist. Ben, the World Series MVP, is from the small community of Eureka, Illinois. We recognized him a few weeks ago in the gymnasium at Eureka College and gave him a big, small-town welcome back home celebration. We're very proud of Ben and his entire family. And folks, you may recall that his father, Tom... Tom Zobrist, gave the opening prayer in Session here last year. Thank you."

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Speaker Madigan: "Mr. David Harris."

Harris, D.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, there's only one way this celebration could get any better and that's with a subway series. The Cubs versus the Sox, across town, in the Series."

Speaker Madigan: "At this time, we'd like to acknowledge officials from the Cubs organization. First, Ryne Sandberg, please stand. We can give the same amount of applause to Mike Lufrano, Mike. Julian Green. Julius Farrell. And now, we'd like Tom Ricketts to come forward and spend some time with us."

Tom Ricketts: "Well, it's... it's really an honor to be here today. It's... it's my understanding that Joint Sessions are relatively rare, so it's a real honor to be here. It's also my understanding that people rising in bipartisan support for an issue is pretty rare, too, so I'm really impressed by that. Thank you. The... It's great to be down in Springfield. It's great to be down here with the trophy in... in central Illinois. I know that as you get further and further away from Chicago and you get down to this part of the country, you start to get a little competition from our friends in St. Louis. So, we're very pleased that we're going to be showing the trophy at the... at the Library later today. And people have lined up since 6:00 this morning to see it. So, it's great to be out and not only to be in the room with... with you all, but the other people in the area who want to come see the trophy. When... when the Cubs were purchased by the Ricketts seven years ago, we laid out three goals. The first goal was to win the World Series. The second goal was to preserve and improve

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Wrigley Field. And the third goal was to do more for our community. Well, we've done a lot more for our community. We... the Cubs Charities in Chicago: the Cubs Charities and Cubs Care have grown fivefold in terms of dollars raised and dollars put to work throughout the Chicagoland area in the seven years we've owned the team. The second goal of preserving and improving Wrigley Field is well on its way. We've... It's about a \$600 million project to preserve Wrigley Field. And when you include what we're doing outside the park, it's about a billion dollar investment from the family of which we're proud to say that we've paid over \$210 million of wages in our development over the last couple years. With notably 35 percent of that going to... to minority and women workers and about \$40 million going to minority contractors. So, we're... But as I'm fond of saying, we have three goals, but the goal that has always been the most important goal and if I ever forgot it was the most important goal, I was always reminded by people on the street. And I walk around every day and I walk around the park all the time and I have all these great memories of meetings with people where before they even tell me their name, they tell me their age. And it goes like this. Mr. Ricketts, I'm 71 years old. Please win the World Series before I die. So, I would always say, well, you're 71, I get that, but do you eat right? Do you take care of yourself? Do you exercise? About how much time do you think we have on this project? So, for all those people, I want to say thanks for all your support for all those years and here's our trophy. Not only were we able to win the most exciting World Series ever, with the youngest team ever to win the World

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Series, it was a great national story. We had them... most-highest rated baseball game in decades. We had almost 50 million people watching at one point during Game 7. It was truly a national story. But I think the thing I'll remember the most of this... of this whole adventure is the parade. As the Resolution states, the seventh largest gathering of humankind. Now, I don't know how we can audit that or really like prove that to anyone, but I can tell you that from the moment those buses pulled out of Wrigley 'til the moment that we got to Grant Park, it was jammed with people for miles and miles. And I would not be surprised if there was really 5 million people out that day. But to whether or not it was the seventh largest gathering of humankind, I don't know. But some of the other gatherings that they compare us to, I could just know that I think it was the largest gathering of truly happy people of all time in history. So... so, and you know, so... but you know, all this... all this is... is so meaningful to me, like... I mean, the fact is, on behalf of my family, on behalf of everyone here from the Cubs, I mean, the way we feel about it is that it's just so powerful and so meaningful to be even a small part of something that means so much to so many people. And when I think about the... the years that I've been associated with the team, I think about all the conversations I have with the fans when I walk through the ballpark every game. And for me, it's really about paying people back for the support and the love they've shown the team for, not a lot of thick, but a lot of thin years. And so, it's really special. I mean, this is really a trophy for the team and a trophy for the people that work at the team,



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but really it's a trophy for the fans of the Chicago Cubs. And finally, I just want to say something that is really important that I picked up from a lot of the speeches today. I mean, baseball in the end is all about family. It is... it is the game that you can go to with your grandchildren or your grandparents. It is the game you go to when you want to talk to the people you're with. And it's just an important part of this... this incredible adventure for my family is that baseball means so much to all the families of all the fans that we have in the world. So, once again, it's an honor to be here. Thank you very much."

Speaker Madigan: "For picture taking, we'd like to form two lines from either side of the trophy. And now, we're going to be led in song by Representative Ann Williams, Ann."

Williams - et al: "Sing *Go Cubs Go*."

Speaker Madigan: "The President of the Senate is recognized for a Motion."

President Cullerton: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Joint Session do now arise."

Speaker Madigan: "The President of the Senate has moved that the Joint Session do now arise. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Joint Session will now arise. The regular Session will come to order. Thank you, everyone."

Speaker Lang: "The House will be in order. Chair recognizes Representative Hammond."

Hammond: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, a point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Please proceed."

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Hammond: "Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to be joined on the House Floor today by my former seatmate, now Senator Jil Tracy."

Speaker Lang: "Happy to have you here, Senator."

Hammond: "And we are also wanting to welcome our constituent of ours who is up in the gallery beside that good looking man, who just happens to be my husband, that is Natalie Seaman. Natalie is a senior at Beardstown High School. And she was recently one of 18 young folks from across Illinois to attend the Citizen Washington Focus Group, a 4-H citizenship program that studies how to strengthen their leadership skills and their citizenship skills. I'm not going to comment on that. But more importantly, Natalie is also the state champion of the Air Rifle Division of the Illinois 4-H Rifle Shoot. Congratulations, Natalie. Welcome."

Speaker Lang: "Congratulations and welcome to the House chamber. Chair recognizes Mr. Welch."

Welch: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Go right ahead, Sir."

Welch: "Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make two very quick announcements. Rep. Hernandez, myself, and Rep. Yingling, we are hosting a briefing on immigration policy for all Members of the General Assembly today at 4:30 in Room A-1. That's A-1 of the Stratton Building, a briefing on immigration policy for all Members who'd like to learn more about that. Also, tonight, want to underscore that we have two Big Ten universities in Illinois, the University of Illinois and Northwestern. Tonight, we have the kickoff for the Big Ten Tourney and colleagues are invited to join us at J.P. Kelly's

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tonight to watch the Big Ten Tourney. You know, this is really special for me because I honestly believe this is the first year ever that the Northwestern Wildcats will make the Big Ten Tournament... or the NCAA Tournament. So, please come out to J.P. Kelly's tonight and watch the Big Ten Tournament."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Sir. Representative Hammond for a second bite of the apple."

Hammond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of personal privilege."

Speaker Lang: "Go ahead."

Hammond: "I would like to announce that the Illinois Agribusiness Group will be having breakfast and a legislative update tomorrow morning at 7:15. That's right, I said 7:15 at the Sangamo Club. And they have... asked that I also let you know that they will be finished by 8:15 for committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you. Chair recognizes Mr. Olsen."

Olsen: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize, particularly today, is Rare Disease Day. And there are... there are advocates here in the... in the building and may come and visit your offices representing parents, families, and those in the communities who are impacted by rare diseases. There's a family in my district, the VanHoutan family, that's been particularly influential in rare diseases. They've raised over \$250 thousand to research the rare genetic disorder Batten's Disease. And I want to particularly point that out today as you may receive visits in your offices by members of that coalition who are visiting. Thank you very much."

Speaker Lang: "Thank you, Sir. Mr. Clerk, Agreed Resolutions."

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Clerk Hollman: "Agreed Resolution. House Resolution 195, offered by Representative Reis."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of the Agreed Resolution. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions are adopted. Mr. Clerk, Adjournment Resolution."

Clerk Hollman: "House Joint Resolution #39, offered by Representative Currie.

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that when the two Houses adjourn on Thursday, March 09, 2017, the House of Representatives stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 12:00 o'clock noon, or until the call of the Speaker; and the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 14, 2017, or until the call of the President."

Speaker Lang: "Leader Currie moves for the adoption of the Adjournment Resolution. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the Adjournment Resolution is adopted. And now, leaving perfunctory time for the Clerk, Leader Currie moves that the House stand adjourned until Thursday, March 9 at the hour of noon. Those in favor say 'yes'; opposed 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. And the House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 9 at the hour of noon."

Clerk Hollman: "House Perfunctory Session will come to order. Introduction and First Reading of House Bills. House Bill 4004, offered by Representative Guzzardi, a Bill for an Act concerning revenue. House Bill 4005, offered by Representative Rita, a Bill for an Act concerning State

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government. First Reading of these House Bills. Committee Reports. Representative D'Amico, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Vehicles & Safety reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate House Bill 2447, House Bill 2485, House Bill 2606, House Bill 2611, House Bill 2623, House Bill 3377, House Bill 3874; do pass Standard Debate House Bill 3920; do pass as amended Short Debate House Bill 683, House Bill 2543; recommends be adopted is Floor Amendment #1 to House Bill 374. Representative Crespo, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: School Curriculum & Policies reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2442, House Bill 2977, House Bill 3260, House Bill 3745; do pass as amended Short Debate House Bill 213; recommends be adopted is House Resolution 107. Representative Costello, Chairperson from the Committee on Agriculture & Conservation reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2488, House Bill 2685, House Bill 2893, House Bill 2998, House Bill 3058, House Bill 3093, House Bill 3272, House Bill 3273; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 3399. Representative Fine, Chairperson from the Committee on Insurance: Health & Life reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2506, House Bill 2721; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 2957. Representative Evans, Chairperson from the Committee on Transportation: Regulation, Roads & Bridges reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Standard Debate House Bill 2863, House Bill

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2873; recommends be adopted is House Joint Resolution 21, House Joint Resolution 31. Representative Mitchell, Christian, Chairperson from the Committee on Economic Opportunity reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2462, House Bill 2749, House Bill 3061; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 736. Representative Williams, Chairperson from the Committee on Tourism, Hospitality & Craft Industries reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2386. Representative Hernandez, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 302, House Bill 3072, House Bill 3081, House Bill 3684. Representative Beiser, Chairperson from the Committee on Environment reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2731, House Bill 2733, House Bill 2899, House Bill 3014, House Bill 3048, House Bill 3325; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 2732. Representative Ford, Chairperson from the Committee on Financial Institutions reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2514, House Bill 3282; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 759. Representative DeLuca, Chairperson from the Committee on Cities & Villages reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2584, House Bill 2585; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 547. Representative Sims, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Criminal reports the

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following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2460, House Bill 2724, House Bill 2897, House Bill 3286. Representative Flowers, Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Availability & Accessibility reports the following committee action taken on March 07, 2017: recommends be adopted is House Joint Resolution 16, House Resolution 88. Representative Mayfield, Chairperson from the Committee on Elementary & Secondary Education: Licensing, Administration & Oversight reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2540, House Bill 2612, House Bill 3378. Representative Gabel, Chairperson from the Committee on Human Services reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 763, House Bill 2452, House Bill 2531, House Bill 2589, House Bill 2762, House Bill 2812, House Bill 2857, House Bill 2907, House Bill 2909, House Bill 3060, House Bill 3086, House Bill 3110, House Bill 3131, House Bill 3143, House Bill 3161, House Bill 3169, House Bill 3542; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 528; recommends be adopted is House Resolution 56, House Resolution 109, House Resolution 113, House Resolution 117. Representative Thapedi, Chairperson from the Committee on Judiciary - Civil reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 2516, House Bill 2536, House Bill 2537, House Bill 2604, House Bill 3001, House Bill 3092; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 237, House Bill 2713. Representative Hurley, Chairperson from the Committee on Police & First Responders reports the following committee action taken on March 08,

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2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 1772, House Bill 3879, House Bill 3910; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 524. Representative Burke, Daniel, Chairperson from the Committee on Executive reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 695, House Bill 2878, House Bill 3106, House Bill 3164, House Bill 3222, House Bill 3855; do pass Standard Debate is House Bill 2861. Representative Soto, Chairperson from the Committee on Health Care Licenses reports the following committee action taken on March 08, 2017: do pass Short Debate is House Bill 3450; do pass as amended Short Debate is House Bill 3452. Introduction of Resolutions. House Resolution 194, offered by Representative Lang is referred to the Rules Committee. There being no further business, the House Perfunctory Session will stand adjourned."