

SALUTE TO BASEBALL ICON RYNE SANDERS

[R2024-0009678]

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2024, Hall of Fame second baseman Ryne Sandberg joined legendary Chicago Cubs Ernie Banks, Ferguson Jenkins, Ron Santo, Billy Williams, and famed broadcaster Harry Caray in having a statue in his honor erected on the plaza outside historic Wrigley Field; and

WHEREAS Ryne Sandberg set career records among second basemen for home runs, fielding percentage, and consecutive errorless games in a season, earned nine Gold Gloves, collected seven Silver Slugger Awards, and led the league in scoring three times, and played in ten All-Star games. He recorded 2,385 hits with the Cubs and won the National League's Most Valuable Player Award in 1984; and

WHEREAS Ryne Sandberg led the 1984 Cubs to the team's first postseason appearance since 1945, highlighted by his performance on June 23, 1984, in what would become known as the "Sandberg Game," where he went 5-for-6 with game-tying home runs against Cardinals' closer Bruce Sutter in both the 9th and 10th innings to lead the Cubs past the Cardinals; and

WHEREAS Ryne Sandberg was named a National League All-Star ten times and won the Home Run Derby at Wrigley Field in 1990. Sandberg was the all-time leader in fielding percentage (.989%) as a second baseman at the time of his retirement and held the record for the longest errorless streak by a second baseman at 123 consecutive games; and

WHEREAS, Ryne Sandberg was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and had his number retired by the Cubs in 2005, following a distinguished 15-season career with the team, during which he retired as the MLB leader in home runs (282) by a second baseman; and

WHEREAS Sandberg remains an involved member of the Cubs organization, serving as a Cubs ambassador and regularly attending events and charitable opportunities on behalf of the team. With a career standing as a testament to excellence, dedication, and the impact of sportsmanship both on and off the field, his achievements and contributions to the game of baseball and the City of Chicago have earned him a permanent place in the hearts of fans and the annals of baseball history; and

WHEREAS the Honorable Bennett R. Lawson, Alderman of the 44th Ward, in whose ward the friendly confines of Wrigley Field is located, has informed this august body of the significant honor bestowed on this renowned athlete now, therefore

Be It Resolved, that we, the mayor and members of the City of Chicago City Council gathered this 12th day of June, 2024 hereby salutes and Ryne Sandberg for his extraordinary career, recognizes his contributions to the Chicago Cubs, and extends its deepest gratitude to Ryne Sandberg for his dedication to the sport of baseball, his embodiment of the spirit and values that define the City of Chicago as well as celebrates his ongoing legacy as commemorated by the unveiling of his statue at Wrigley Field on June 23, 2024; now therefore

Be It Further Resolved that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Ryne Sandberg as a token of our esteem and admiration.