



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, throughout our nation's history, the sport of baseball has served as a forum for allowing teams to work toward a common goal and display their excellence, persistence, and teamwork; and,  
**WHEREAS**, baseball is America's national pastime, and the State of Illinois is fortunate to be home to numerous baseball players and teams who have demonstrated an outstanding level of skill as well as sportsmanship; and,  
**WHEREAS**, hailing from the South Side of Chicago, one of Illinois' most successful teams is the Jackie Robinson West team, which is comprised of all African-American players; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Jackie Robinson West team is to bring children into a structured program environment intensely supported by adult volunteers, where the values of leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline are strongly emphasized; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the Jackie Robinson West team was founded in 1971 by Joseph H. Haley, an educator by trade, whose goal was to provide young people with wholesome, healthy recreation through participating in baseball; and,  
**WHEREAS**, Jackie Robinson West is one of nearly 200 Urban Initiative Leagues in about 100 cities across the country; and,  
**WHEREAS**, coached by Jason Little, Jerry Houston, and Manager Darold Butler, the Jackie Robinson West team had a remarkable 2014 season; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the players on the 2014 Jackie Robinson West team are DJ Butler, Lawrence Noble, Jaheim Benton, Ed Howard, Cameron Bufford, Brandon Green, Darion Radcliff, Marquis Jackson, Joshua Houston, Eddie King, Prentiss Luster, Pierce Jones, and Grey Hondras; and,  
**WHEREAS**, held annually in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the nationally broadcast Little League World Series is contested by 16 teams: the 8 winners of the regional tournaments and 8 international champions; and,  
**WHEREAS**, Jackie Robinson West won the U.S. Championship by defeating Nevada and finished an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world; and,  
**WHEREAS**, this year was Jackie Robinson West's second appearance in the Little League World Series. Founder Joseph Haley brought the team to Williamsport in 1983, where it finished fifth; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the talent, hard work, and commitment to serving as role models displayed by the Jackson Robinson West team is inspiring to the people of the Land of Lincoln; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the longevity of the Jackie Robinson West Little League Baseball team is a tribute to all of the parents, coaches, sponsors, and fans who are committed to ensuring that young people develop the skills and work ethic necessary for becoming productive, successful adults; and,  
**WHEREAS**, number 42 – Jackie Robinson – would have been proud of this year's team, which showed the same grit and grace Jackie showed as a player; and,  
**WHEREAS**, in order to recognize the accomplishments of the Jackie Robinson West team, the City of Chicago will host a parade and celebration in their honor on August 27; and,  
**THEREFORE**, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 27, 2014 as **JACKIE ROBINSON WEST CHAMPIONSHIP DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of the team's successful 2014 season and their impressive display of sportsmanship and athletic ability, which helped them win the U.S. nationals and finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* TWENTY-SIXTH *day of* AUGUST, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*  
FOURTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*  
*one hundred and* NINETY-SIXTH.

*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR