

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Paul Konerko, a Major League Baseball player for the Chicago White Sox, was born on March 5, 1976, in Providence, Rhode Island; and,
WHEREAS, Paul Konerko is a graduate of Chaparral High School, where he demonstrated superior talent as a baseball player and was named the Republic/Phoenix Gazette Player of the Year after leading his team to the Class 5-A baseball championship in 1994; and,
WHEREAS, drafted 13th overall in the 1994 MLB draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers, Paul Konerko made his big league debut on September 8, 1997; and,
WHEREAS, in 1998, Paul Konerko was traded to the Chicago White Sox, a team that he helped propel to the upper echelons of Major League Baseball; and,
WHEREAS, Paul Konerko, a right handed first baseman, played a critical role in the Chicago White Sox sweeping the Houston Astros in the 2005 World Series. In Game 2 of that series, he hit the first grand slam in White Sox World Series history; and,
WHEREAS, on April 25, 2012, Paul Konerko hit his 400th career home run, becoming the 48th player in Major League history to hit 400 home runs; and,
WHEREAS, since 2006, Paul Konerko has served as the Chicago White Sox's team captain; and,
WHEREAS, Paul Konerko's impressive career statistics include a .279 batting average, 1412 RBI, and a .354 on base percentage; and,
WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious MLB career, Paul Konerko has been a 6 time All-Star, 6 time Player of the Week, and 2005 ALCS MVP; and,
WHEREAS, only Luke Appling has played more games for the Chicago White Sox than Paul Konerko; and,
WHEREAS, on the Chicago White Sox career lists, Paul Konerko ranks first in total bases, second in home runs and RBIs, and third in hits; and,
WHEREAS, at the conclusion of this season, Paul Konerko will be retiring from professional baseball. In honor of his tremendously successful career, the Chicago White Sox will host a Paul Konerko Day on September 27, 2014, which will be attended by many of Paul's friends, family members, teammates, and employees of the Chicago White Sox organization, and,
WHEREAS, Paul Konerko is more than an outstanding baseball player. He is a great person who believes that service to others is the rent we pay to live on this earth. His commitment to helping the people of Illinois is admirable and upholds the best traditions of the Land of Lincoln; and,
WHEREAS, the Bring Me Home Campaign, which Paul Konerko helped found, focuses on recruiting foster parents and advocating for the needs of foster children and families; and,
WHEREAS, in its first seven years, the Bring Me Home Campaign raised nearly \$450,000 from 600 individual donors and positively impacted the lives of more than 1,500 children; and,
WHEREAS, perhaps most importantly, Paul Konerko is a loving husband to wife Jennifer and their three beautiful children, Nicholas, Owen, and Amelia; and,
THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September, 27, 2014, as **PAUL KONERKO DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of today's celebration and his dedication to his family, the game of baseball, the Chicago White Sox, and the people of our state.

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 SEPTEMBER, 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