



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Austin*

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1           A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring Carl  
2           Erskine.

3           *Whereas, Carl Erskine is a lifelong resident of Anderson,*  
4           *Indiana;*

5           *Whereas, Carl Erskine, at 95, is the last man standing of the*  
6           *Brooklyn Dodgers' legendary "Boys of Summer", and threw two*  
7           *no-hitters and set a World Series strikeout record during his*  
8           *12-year Major League career in the 1940s and 1950s;*

9           *Whereas, Carl Erskine received Indiana's highest honor, the*  
10          *Sachem Award, in 2010 and was in the inaugural class of the*  
11          *Indiana Historical Society's Indiana Living Legends in 1999;*

12          *Whereas, Carl Erskine's childhood friendship with Johnny*  
13          *Wilson (Indiana Mr. Basketball 1946) set an example of racial*

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1 *harmony during a fraught social era;*

2 *Whereas, Carl Erskine was among the biggest supporters of*  
3 *Jackie Robinson as he broke baseball's color barrier, such that*  
4 *Mr. Robinson said, "No other Dodger, none, understood more*  
5 *about what was happening (racially) than Carl did";*

6 *Whereas, Carl Erskine is known as the grandfather of*  
7 *Special Olympics Indiana, with more than 50 years of service*  
8 *alongside his son, Jimmy;*

9 *Whereas, Carl and Betty Erskine were the inspiration for the*  
10 *Erskine Green Training Institute in Muncie, a live-in*  
11 *educational and job-placement training facility for people with*  
12 *intellectual disabilities that is among the gems of The Arc of the*  
13 *United States;*

14 *Whereas, Carl Erskine's examples of humility,*  
15 *servant-leadership and moral courage, and his pursuit of equal*  
16 *rights and treatment for all, have shined a beautiful light on*  
17 *Indiana for nearly a century;*

18 *Whereas, Special Olympics International CEO Timothy*  
19 *Shriver proclaimed that "without the Carl Erskines of the*  
20 *world, we would never know the real power of sport," and*  
21 *former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels said, "He's the best*  
22 *we've got";*

23 *Whereas, The world premiere of "The Best We've Got: The*  
24 *Carl Erskine Story", a feature-length documentary by Ted*  
25 *Green Films and the Indiana Historical Society, will be held*  
26 *August 11, 2022, at the historic Paramount Theatre in*  
27 *Anderson;*

28 *Whereas, Carl Erskine was among the charter members of*  
29 *the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in 1954 and still serves as*  
30 *a lifetime trustee;*

31 *Whereas, Carl Erskine is known as "The Godfather of*  
32 *Wildcat Baseball", in reference to the Wildcat Baseball League,*  
33 *a no-cuts, no-cost, all-inclusive youth league founded in Fort*  
34 *Wayne in 1960 for boys, girls, and youths with disabilities. Carl*



1 *Erskine and Jackie Robinson helped start and develop the*  
2 *league and it is still in operation over 60 years later; and*

3 *Whereas, Carl and Betty Erskine will celebrate their 75th*  
4 *wedding anniversary on October 5, 2022: Therefore,*

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*  
6 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

7 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives  
8 recognizes and honors Carl Erskine.

9 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
10 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to State  
11 Representative Terri Austin for distribution.

