



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: Pelath

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION memorializing Donnie M.
2 Thomas.

3 *Whereas, Donnie M. Thomas was born March 12, 1953, in*
4 *Michigan City to the late Tommy Thomas and Sarah Nell*
5 *Horton-Griffin and died on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the age*
6 *of 64;*

7 *Whereas, Thomas was a legendary athlete at Elston Senior*
8 *High School, where he won statewide honors in football,*
9 *basketball, and baseball;*

10 *Whereas, After graduating from Elston in 1972, Thomas*
11 *starred as a linebacker on the Indiana University football team;*

12 *Whereas, He was selected to play professional football by*

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1 *the New England Patriots in the 11th round of the 1976*
2 *National Football League draft;*

3 *Whereas, At the end of his professional football career,*
4 *Thomas returned home to his beloved Michigan City, where he*
5 *taught school and coached for 34 years;*

6 *Whereas, Affectionately known to all as "Big D", Mr.*
7 *Thomas forever influenced and inspired generations of young*
8 *people in Michigan City through his love, compassion,*
9 *generosity, and deep sense of caring;*

10 *Whereas, Thomas especially was loved and respected by his*
11 *hundreds of players in various sports, who invariably*
12 *remember a smile and a heart big enough to match his large*
13 *exterior;*

14 *Whereas, On June 28, 1986, Thomas married the love of his*
15 *life, Peggy Wright Thomas, in Michigan City;*

16 *Whereas, Thomas was deeply proud of his two children,*
17 *Quinten J. Thomas and Kristen L. Thomas;*

18 *Whereas, Mr. Thomas was a member of New Hope*
19 *Missionary Baptist Church and enjoyed fishing, cooking,*
20 *sports, coaching, and, most of all, helping young people; and*

21 *Whereas, Donnie M. Thomas was a special presence in the*
22 *lives of countless people, who will always miss this gentlest of*
23 *giants: Therefore,*

24 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the*
25 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

26 SECTION 1. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
27 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the family
28 of Donnie M. Thomas.

