

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1923, before a standing room only crowd at the Ashland Auditorium, 424 young men from Chicago's working class neighborhoods fought for respect and glory in a "great boxing carnival"; and,

WHEREAS, a century later, tens of thousands of Illinoisans have competed in the storied Chicago Golden Gloves boxing tournament, the largest and longest running boxing tournament in America; and,

WHEREAS, the Chicagoland Golden Gloves region extends across Illinois, as far south as greater Champaign; and,

WHEREAS, the annual tournament raises money to cover all expenses for the men's and women's championship teams, along with coaches, to compete at the National championship, which every four years is an Olympic qualifying event; and,

WHEREAS, Chicago Golden Gloves Charities Inc., a registered 501 (c)(3) in good standing, was founded on the belief that training in boxing instills a sense of self-respect, discipline, and accomplishment in the youth of our community; and,

WHEREAS, the iconic title, "Chicago Golden Gloves Champion," has been won by Illinois-born boxing legends including Barney Ross, Ernie Terrell, the O'Shea brothers, and five US Olympians - boxers who came from other cities to win the Interstate Golden Gloves title in Chicago include Joe Louis, Sonny Liston, and a young Cassius Clay; and,

WHEREAS, Great Illinoisans who have said training in boxing and competing in the Chicago Golden Gloves played a formative role in their extraordinarily successful lives include Illinois Appellate Court Judge Joseph Birkett, international dance superstar and philanthropist Michael Flatley, actor Joseph Sikora, the Founder and President of Apache Service and Supply George Pacheco, as well as, the late Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, the late Chairman Emeritus of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange Jack Sandner, and the late Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan; and,

WHEREAS, in 1994, the Chicago Golden Gloves became the first amateur boxing organization to introduce a Women's Division; and,

WHEREAS, in 2023, ten living legends who were champions between 1958 and 1974 will be inducted into the Chicago Golden Gloves Hall of Fame including Kent Green, Frank Steel, Nick Petrecca, Billy Boy Thompson, Fred Houpe, Tim Adams, Frank Smith, and Tom Gicaobbe - Bill Heglin will be inducted in the Coaching category; and,

WHEREAS, in honor of his more than 50 years of dedication and service as Ringside Physician, Chicago Golden Gloves is privileged to induct Dr. Glenn "Doc" Bynum into the Hall of Fame - there has not been a single significant injury to any of the many thousands of boxers who have competed in any amateur event during the half century that Doc was ringside; and,

WHEREAS, The Chicago Golden Gloves tournament is the only tournament in America celebrating 100 years and is the original event upon which all Golden Gloves tournaments across the country are based;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, March 21, 2023, as **Chicago Golden Gloves Day** in Illinois and the week of April 10 - 16, 2023, as **Chicago Golden Gloves Week**, to recognize the organization for all they have contributed to the lives of amateur boxers for the past 100 years.

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 SECOND day of MARCH, in
 the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, and of the State of Illinois,
 two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannoul
 SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
 GOVERNOR