

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Force Women's Tackle Football Team is honored today for their 2013 perfect season, their first National Championship and World Championship titles; and,  
**WHEREAS**, Linda Bache, former player, inspirational leader and owner of the Chicago Force Women's Tackle Football Team, was named as Owner of the Year by the Women's Football Alliance. It is Bache's game skills, management and leadership that have guided the Chicago Force to achieve ten playoff berths in the last eleven seasons; and,  
**WHEREAS**, during the 2013 perfect season, the Women's Football Alliance named Chicago Force quarterback, Sami Grisafe, Offensive Player of the Year, and Chicago Force line backer, Darcy Leslie, as Defensive Player of the Year; and,  
**WHEREAS**, in 2013 ten Chicago Force players were selected to the All-American Team, to represent the National Conference of the Women's Football Alliance in the All-American game: Sami Grisafe, Brandy Hatcher, Dawn Pederson, Tami Engelman, Liz Okey, Ashley Berggren, Jeanette Gray, Kim Marks, Darcy Leslie and Angel Smith; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the USA Women's Tackle Football Team won the gold in Finland on July 6, 2013. Three Chicago Force coaches were selected to coach Team USA: John Konecki, Adam Lewandowski, and Nick Djurdjevic. Team USA won the Women's World Championship with decisive victories over Sweden (84-0), Germany (107-7), and Canada (64-0) in the gold medal games. The forty-five women on Team USA represent the top players in the sport of women's tackle football, and are recognized and respected as international sports ambassadors; and,  
**WHEREAS**, of the Chicago Force players who were on the championship team, nine were members of the record setting 2013 U.S. Women's National Team that won the Women's World Championship: Sami Grisafe, Jamie Menzyk, Dawn Pederson, Tami Engelman, Liz Okey, Kim Marks, Brandy Hatcher, Jeanette Gray and Ashley Berggren; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Force Women's Tackle Football franchise and players have exemplified the discipline, talent, sportsmanship and spirit of the City of Chicago and the Land of Lincoln in their conduct on both the national and international stages; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Force Women's Tackle Football Team is celebrated for its pioneering indomitable spirit, and serves as an example for establishing a sports legacy for women and girls who are too often unheralded and overlooked in the sports arena; and,  
**WHEREAS**, the Chicago Force's championship athletic talent goes "beyond the game" by upholding the principles of self-discipline and good sportsmanship. The Chicago Force Women's Tackle Football players are first-class champions who excel both on and off the field, and provide a shining example to girls and women about what they can achieve in sports and in life; and,  
**THEREFORE**, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 5, 2014, as the **CHICAGO FORCE WOMEN'S TACKLE FOOTBALL TEAM DAY** in Illinois, in honor of the Force's 2013 perfect season, National and International Championship titles, and urge all citizens to celebrate the Chicago Force Team's contributions and commitment to sportsmanship that breaks all barriers.

**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           NINTH           day of           DECEMBER          , in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

          THIRTEEN          , and of the State of Illinois,

one hundred and           NINETY-SIXTH          .

*Desse Witt*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR