

News...

from State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 10, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford
773-378-5902

Rep. Ford to Honor Muhammad Ali with Memorial Street Naming

CHICAGO, IL – In an effort to honor the life of one of the world’s most renowned and revered sports legends, civil rights activists and cultural icons, state Rep. La Shawn Ford, D-Chicago, introduced legislation that would name a segment of Roosevelt Road in Chicago after the world champion boxer, Muhammad Ali.

“Muhammad Ali was a very special type of man who used his stardom as a platform to fight against injustices that plague our communities and our nation,” said Ford. “It’s simple - we need more people like Muhammad Ali. Throughout his life, he was a shining beacon in a culture blighted by darkness and hatred.”

Ford has introduced House Resolution 1317, a measure that designates a portion of Roosevelt Road as Muhammad Ali Road. The honored stretch of road would run from Cicero Avenue to Austin Avenue in the Austin neighborhood in Chicago. A stretch of Cicero Avenue that would intersect Ali Road has been dedicated to the first president of apartheid South Africa, Nelson Mandela. The Austin community in Chicago has been noted to have much culture and history, but has been afflicted with the same violence and turmoil that both Ali and Mandela were not shy to speak out against.

“Ali was a Chicago resident for more than a decade and I hope that honoring him publically in our community will help his legacy live on,” said Ford. “He was an athlete who transcended his superstardom and stood firmly in his beliefs as an activist and a real man. It is my hope that a young man or woman would see this street name and be inspired to uplift the community in his or her own way.”

Ford represents the Eighth Representative District in Illinois, which contains parts of Chicago’s Austin neighborhood and portions of Berwyn, Brookfield, Forest Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, North Riverside, Oak Park, Proviso Township and Western Springs.

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or visit www.lashawnford.com.