



SR0822

LRB098 17162 GRL 52249 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Harold Gene "Sparky" Songer of Danville, who passed away on January 12, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Songer was born on March 4, 1925 in Veedersburg, Indiana; his parents were Glenwood and Elsie (nee Clawson) Songer; he married Eloise Cooper on January 9, 1955; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Songer attended Veedersburg Grade School and High School; he subsequently attended Eastern Illinois University, where he earned his bachelor's degree; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Songer was drafted into the United States Army in July of 1943; he fought at the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest as a mortarman in the 106th Infantry Division, where he was captured and remained a captive in Germany until his escape in 1945; in 1951, he re-enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts as flight support; for his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star; and

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WHEREAS, Harold Songer served as coordinator of Veterans Affairs at Danville Area Community College from 1979 to 1994;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Harold Songer was a longtime and charter member of
3 the Danville Sunrise Rotary Club, where he served as sergeant
4 of arms for many years; he was the 68th AMBUCS First Citizen in
5 April of 2000; he led a group of local veterans who collected
6 tens of thousands of aluminum cans to raise money to build the
7 various memorials in Danville and led the effort to turn the
8 old Carnegie Library into the Vermilion County War Museum,
9 where he later served as president and director; he was awarded
10 the Studs Terkel Award in 2004 for his service; and

11 WHEREAS, Harold Songer was preceded in death by his
12 parents; his loving wife, Eloise; his brothers, James and Leroy
13 Songer; and his sister, Wanda Kester; and

14 WHEREAS, Harold Songer is survived by his son, Aaron (Lisa)
15 Songer; his daughter, Michele (Brian Bonebrake) Songer; his
16 grandchildren, Brandon Bays, Ashley Songer, Taylor Songer,
17 Samantha Songer, Seth Bonebrake, and Cade Bonebrake; his 4
18 great-grandchildren; his sister, Julia Crane; and his cat,
19 Hemingway; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
22 family and friends, mourn the passing of Harold Gene "Sparky"

1 Songer; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the family of Harold Songer as an expression of
4 our sympathy.