



HR0670

LRB103 39787 LAW 70358 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Gary and Debby Stricker on the occasion of their retirement from owning and operating The Okawville Times, after providing their community with a steady source of knowledge and information for half a century; and

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WHEREAS, The Okawville Times was founded by J.T. Gibbs in 1893; the newspaper was then owned by Gary Stricker's uncle and aunt, Grover and Leona Brinkman, before his parents, Warren and Virginia Stricker, assumed ownership; and

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WHEREAS, Becoming the fourth owners in the 130-year history of The Okawville Times, Gary and Debby Stricker took control of the family business from Gary's parents after Gary completed his military service with the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a photographer from 1969 to 1973; and

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WHEREAS, Soon after, Gary and Debby Stricker married on May 4, 1973, and Debby proceeded to serve as editor of The Okawville Times while also selling real estate; and

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WHEREAS, Gary and Debby Stricker have long been active in their community in a number of ways, such as assisting the

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1 Okawville Village Library through advertising library events,
2 providing ticket printing, and contributing in many other ways
3 to aid the library in raising money to buy books for all ages
4 and to host programs for students in the local school
5 district; and

6 WHEREAS, Gary and Debby Stricker have been leaders in
7 their field and community, with Gary serving on the board of
8 directors of the Illinois Press Association from 2000 to 2011,
9 advocating for journalists across the State, and Debby serving
10 on the Okawville Village Library Board; and

11 WHEREAS, During their 50 years of leadership and
12 management, Gary and Debby Stricker have received numerous
13 awards from the Illinois Press Association while operating The
14 Okawville Times; and

15 WHEREAS, In retirement, Gary and Debby Stricker have
16 expressed plans to spend more time with their children, Kit
17 and Shana Stricker, and their grandchildren, Gwen, Grant,
18 Natasha, Zane, and Emma; and

19 WHEREAS, The Okawville Times has merged with the Nashville
20 News to become the Washington County News, ensuring the
21 viability of local journalism for years to come; therefore, be
22 it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate Gary and Debby Stricker on their retirement
4 from owning and operating The Okawville Times, and we commend
5 them for their lifetime of service to their community and
6 State; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Gary and Debby Stricker as a symbol of our esteem
9 and respect.