



HR0671

LRB103 40027 LAW 71422 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Fowler Connell on the  
4 occasion of his 100th birthday; and

5           WHEREAS, Fowler Connell was born on April 18, 1924; he  
6 graduated Paseo High School in Kansas City, Missouri in 1941;  
7 he attended Kansas City Junior College and graduated from the  
8 University of Missouri in 1949; and

9           WHEREAS, Fowler Connell served as a petty officer first  
10 class and a radarman in the U.S. Navy during World War II; he  
11 was aboard the USS Boston (CA-69) during his entire length of  
12 service from 1943 to 1946; during his time in the Pacific, he  
13 experienced kamikaze attacks and supported forces in island  
14 assaults post-Pearl Harbor; at 21 years of age, he witnessed  
15 the end of the war from the deck of the USS Boston, which was  
16 anchored off the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, where General  
17 MacArthur accepted the surrender of the Empire of Japan; and

18           WHEREAS, Fowler Connell led a 40-year career in newspaper  
19 journalism, beginning with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and  
20 the Champaign News-Gazette in 1949; he then joined the  
21 Danville Commercial-News in 1952, where he worked for 37 years  
22 before retiring from his position as sports editor at the end

1 of 1989; he was later honored by the newspaper in 2005, when it  
2 published a book featuring a collection of his favorite  
3 stories titled, Sports Through My Eyes, 50 Years of Sports  
4 Coverage, with proceeds from the sale of the book and  
5 companion audio CD supporting scholarships at Danville Area  
6 Community College; and

7 WHEREAS, Fowler Connell began his second career as a radio  
8 broadcaster on January 1, 1990, and he continued serving as a  
9 member of the WDAN broadcast team on high school, junior  
10 college, and local University of Illinois broadcasts until  
11 2020; he appeared as a regular panelist on the WDAN Sports Talk  
12 program for over 30 years, retiring from the show at almost 97  
13 years of age; during his 71 years of employment as a newspaper  
14 writer, editor, and radio broadcaster, he never missed a day  
15 of work; and

16 WHEREAS, Fowler Connell supported his community in a  
17 number of ways; he belonged to the Danville Golden K club,  
18 where he served as president and lieutenant governor, and  
19 volunteered at the Danville VA Hospital, Danville High School,  
20 North Ridge Middle School, the Danville Township Food Pantry,  
21 and a local retirement center, where he called bingo each  
22 week, remaining active in local volunteer service until age  
23 97; he spearheaded the establishment of the Vermilion County  
24 Sportsmanship Award over 30 years ago, and he continues to

1 serve on the award's local committee; and

2 WHEREAS, Fowler Connell, an icon of Danville and Vermilion  
3 County, will celebrate his 100th birthday on April 18, 2024;  
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we congratulate Fowler Connell on his 100th birthday, commend  
8 him for his service to the State of Illinois and the nation,  
9 and wish him continued health and happiness; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Fowler Connell as an expression of our esteem and  
12 respect.