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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Harold 'Sparky' Songer on being chosen as a 2004 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award recipient; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Humanities Council chose Harold Songer as a 2004 award recipient for his efforts in turning the former library in the Carnegie Building in Danville into the Vermilion County War Museum; the museum opened on Veterans Day in 1999; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois Humanities Council established the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Awards to celebrate unsung "humanities heroes" throughout Illinois; the award is named after the prize-winning oral historian and author, Studs Terkel, a prominent son of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Scott Eisenhauer of Danville nominated Harold Songer for the award because of his efforts in leading a group of volunteers to create the war museum to honor local and national heroes, and to recognize Mr. Songer and the other volunteers not only for the tourism impact they have generated for the city by the creation of the museum, but more for providing a place of learning so that all may realize the price paid for our freedom; and

WHEREAS, Since the opening of the museum, thousands of school children, adults and military personnel have visited the site, and it is now widely known as one of the premier war museums in the Midwest; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that along with the citizens of this great state, we congratulate

1 Harold 'Sparky' Songer on his award; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Harold 'Sparky' Songer as an expression of our
4 respect and esteem and our thanks for his continuing love and
5 devotion to the museum.