WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois wish to honor Floyd F. "Mike" Reed on the occasion of his 86th birthday on March 26, 2005; and

WHEREAS, He was born on March 26, 1919, in Pine Creek Township, Ogle County, Illinois, the sixth of 11 children of Henry and Olive "Smice" Reed; he was nicknamed "Mike" at a very early age, and that name has been with him all his life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reed enlisted in the U.S. Army on September 6, 1940, along with brothers Kenneth and Robert; they all served in North Africa and Italy during World War II; he married Gertrude C. "Unger" Reed on August 11, 1942, in Muskogee, Oklahoma, prior to being shipped overseas; while serving in World War II he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart; he was discharged in 1945 as a First Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Following his discharge, he was hired as a carpenter in the late 1940s at Northwestern Steel & Wire Co. (NWS & W); when the family first moved to Sterling, they lived in a railroad box car in an area that was nicknamed Silver City; NWS & W had moved several hundred box cars onto mill property as living quarters for the newly hired employees of the expanding company; while living in the box car and working at the mill, Mr. Reed was building a house in the rural Sterling area, where he and his wife raised 3 children, Connie L. Reed, David M. Reed, and Cindy R. Reed; he lived in this house until his wife passed away in March of 1982; he retired from the steel mill upon her passing; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Mr. Reed sold his home and moved to Thomson, where he still resides; he married Barbara J. "Gates" Reed on March 29, 2003, in Thomson; and
WHEREAS, He was always an avid fisherman and hunter until his later years, when he had to give up hunting; he continues to fish the Mississippi River every day, weather permitting; he routinely catches many catfish, which he eats, and routinely gives dressed fish to friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, During his younger years, Mr. Reed was a very active volunteer member of the Illinois Clean Streams Committee, Sterling Little League & Babe Ruth baseball, and the Coleta Sportsmen's Club; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Floyd F. "Mike" Reed on the occasion of his 86th birthday, and we wish him many more happy birthdays; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Reed as an expression of our respect and esteem.