

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives congratulate WDAN, Danville's first radio
4 station, on celebrating 65 years in radio; and

5 WHEREAS, WDAN is the radio station where a teenage Dick
6 Van Dyke spun records as a night disc jockey and where Bobby
7 Short first tickled the ivories for an audiences of
8 listeners; and

9 WHEREAS, WDAN radio first hit the airwaves in November
10 1938, and Captain Stubby was one of the radio station's first
11 on-air personalities; he eventually became an on-air
12 personality on WLS in Chicago in the 1950s; at the age of 80,
13 he still has a syndicated program that airs on 70 radio
14 stations across the country; and

15 WHEREAS, Danville's own Bobby Short had his first radio
16 gig on WDAN in the late 1930s and early 1940s; and the
17 station also gave 17-year-old Danville high student Dick Van
18 Dyke a job in its studios at the Hotel Wolford in the
19 mid-1940s; and

20 WHEREAS, Although not on the radio, Gene Hackman was a
21 cameraman for the radio station's television affiliate
22 WDAN-TV Channel 24, the predecessor to today's Channel 15, in
23 the early 1950s; the television station was on the air from
24 1953 to 1963 when it merged with Channel 15 in 1963; and

25 WHEREAS, Jeanne Eisenhauer, who is a 40 year veteran of
26 WDAN, became the first woman on WDAN to host her own talk
27 show called "Party Line" which was wildly popular and ran
28 from 1984 until 1997; and

29 WHEREAS, WDAN held a public open house on October 26,
30 2003 and gave the public a chance to tour the station and
31 take in its rich history; the highlight of the open house was

1 the rebroadcast of a Dick Van Dyke program on WDAN which has
2 not been heard since December 1946; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we congratulate radio station WDAN of Danville for 65 years
6 of continuous service to their communities to enrich the
7 lives of their citizens; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the WDAN station director as an expression of
10 our respect and esteem.