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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois' historical roots as the agricultural heartland of the United States of America still greatly influence the everyday lives of all Illinoisans; and

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives take great pride in recognizing the remarkable talent and historic accomplishments of our state's citizenry; and

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WHEREAS, Orion Samuelson has been an iconic voice on Illinois radio waves for more than 50 years; and

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WHEREAS, Orion Samuelson was born on a working dairy farm in Wisconsin's Kickapoo Valley and has imbued more than a half-century of broadcasts with the sights, sounds, and stories of his rural Ontario, Wisconsin upbringing; and

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WHEREAS, Orion Samuelson's vocal talent grew prodigiously from the soil of a childhood illness; and

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WHEREAS, Orion Samuelson began his career in broadcasting as a polka disc jockey in Sparta, Wisconsin, but moved to Illinois to take the air for WGN in 1960, and has called our great State home ever since; and

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1 WHEREAS, Orion and his wife, Gloria Samuelson, remain close
2 to the communities of Orion's past, residing in Huntley at the
3 frontier between Chicagoland and our State's magnificent
4 farmland; and

5 WHEREAS, Orion Samuelson has produced and hosted a diverse
6 array of shows in his 54 years at WGN Radio and, for his 39
7 years as host of "U.S. Farm Report" and "This Week in
8 Agribusiness", is recognized nationally as the "rock star" of
9 agricultural journalism; and

10 WHEREAS, In honor of his achievements as a broadcaster and
11 agricultural advocate, Orion Samuelson has received the
12 Lincoln Medal, the State of Illinois' highest honor, and has
13 been inducted into the Scandinavian-American Hall of Fame, the
14 National 4-H Hall of Fame, the National Association of Farm
15 Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the National Radio Hall of Fame;
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17 WHEREAS, Orion Samuelson continues to play an active part
18 in local events throughout McHenry County, most notably as
19 emcee of Harvard's Milk Days celebration; and

20 WHEREAS, In recognition of Orion Samuelson's extraordinary
21 life, career, and contributions to our communities, WGN is

1 erecting a 'Walk of Fame' that will include a monument to Mr.
2 Samuelson to be placed prominently before the station's
3 headquarters in Chicago; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate Orion Samuelson on his recent milestone
7 birthday and the new monument recognizing his lifetime of
8 exceptional achievement; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Orion and Gloria Samuelson as a symbol of our
11 esteem and respect.