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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor milestones in the lives of citizens of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that Mrs. Willie Cottingim will celebrate her 100th birthday on December 27, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Willie Cottingim was born on December 27, 1906 in Denton, Texas; her parents were Rufus and Nellie Bly Shaw Nipp; she lived in Texas until she was almost 12 years old when her father was transferred to Parsons, Kansas with the KATY Railroad; and

WHEREAS, She graduated from Parsons High School in 1925; following graduation, she attended the Homer Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, taking classes for five years; during this time, she also worked part-time for the KATY Railroad; she was a very talented vocal musician and, at the age of 19, became the choir director for the First Baptist Church of Parsons, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1920's, Willie met and began to date Hilmer Cottingim; they were married in St. Louis in December of 1935; in 1938, Hilmer got a job with Texaco Pipeline Company in Wood River, Illinois; they moved to Salem in 1939; she became the choir director for the First Baptist Church in 1940, and she directed multiple choirs there until her retirement some 25 years later; and

WHEREAS, She taught music in the consolidated schools (Shanafelt, Raccoon, Kell, & Iuka), then, in 1952 or 1953, she went to work for Jiffy Manufacturing in Salem, and worked until her retirement in 1971; she and her husband were very involved

1 in Senior Citizens and community work during the 1970's and
2 1980's; her husband died in June of 1992; Willie continues to
3 live independently at Bob White Village; she still attends
4 church every Sunday and says "I am not in bad shape for the
5 shape I am in."; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Mrs. Willie Cottingim on the occasion of her
9 100th birthday; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Mrs. Willie Cottingim on her 100th birthday.