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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Molly Melching on her placement on the Danville High School Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Molly Melching has lived in Senegal for the past 28 years; she has written and published books for the children of Senegal, adapted to their culture and environment; and

WHEREAS, She created the non-governmental organization Tostan, which means "breakthrough" in the Wolof language; the mission of Tostan is to provide communities with skills necessary for positive socioeconomic transformation, including democracy, human rights, leadership, and problem-solving as well as literacy, math, health, and management skills; and

WHEREAS, The program has been adopted by other countries, such as Sudan, Burkina, Faso, Mali, and Guinea on an experimental basis; and

WHEREAS, The program has helped reduce maternal and infant health mortality rates; it has implemented successful and sustainable income-generating activities for rural women; and through the program progress has been made to end the tradition of female genital cutting; and

1 WHEREAS, Molly Melching was awarded the University of
2 Illinois Alumni Humanitarian Prize in 1999 and the Sargeant
3 Shriver Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Service in 2002;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
7 congratulate Molly Melching on her placement on the Wall of
8 Fame at Danville High School and thank her for her hard work
9 and dedication to the people of Senegal; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Molly Melching as a symbol of our respect and
12 esteem.