

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives with honor and respect celebrate the 98th birthday of Richard A. Miller, a resident of Aurora, Illinois, and thank him for his military service during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller was born in the City of Aurora on June 26, 1926; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller graduated from East Aurora High School and enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller bravely served his country during World War II aboard the U.S.S. Drexler, where he survived an attack by two Japanese kamikaze planes that sank the ship in 49 seconds and resulted in the deaths of his shipmates during the Battle of Okinawa, the largest battle in the Pacific, where 4,907 U.S. Navy personnel and 4,824 were wounded; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller, upon returning to civilian life, married his life-long sweetheart, Doris Miller, and they resided in Aurora, where he still resides and eventually raised two children, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller attended Aurora College (Aurora University) upon returning from military service and had a distinguished career as the personnel manager at the Aurora Post Office; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller's dedication extends beyond his military service; he has been a member of the community, frequently speaking at local schools and civic groups, and has been honored throughout the Fox Valley, becoming known as the WWII Singing Sailor; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller's contributions have been recognized through his participation in numerous bus trips and by the Chicago White Sox as the Hero of the Game; and

WHEREAS, Richard Miller's devotion to his comrades and his country exemplifies the spirit of service and inspiring admiration and gratitude; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Richard A. Miller on his 98th birthday, thank him for his sacrifice to the United States of America, commend him for his dedication to his family and his community, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Richard Miller as a token of respect.

Adopted by the House of Representatives on May 17, 2024

