



HR0230

LRB103 32050 MST 60971 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Paul Porter Davidsmeyer
4 on the occasion of his 100th Birthday, celebrated on April 16,
5 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer was born in Jacksonville to
7 Faith Porter and R.H. Davidsmeyer on April 16, 1923; and

8 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer served gallantly in the U.S.
9 Army during World War II with the 82nd Airborne and fought in
10 three battles, including the Battle of the Bulge (1944-45),
11 where he received a Purple Heart and the Presidential Unit
12 Citation; and

13 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer participated in the liberation
14 of the Wobbelin camp, a sub-camp of the Neuengamme
15 concentration camp, near the city of Ludwigslust in May 1945;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, After the war, Paul Davidsmeyer returned home,
18 married his sweetheart, Saralee Butler, and moved to
19 Springfield to start a family; and

20 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer worked at different jobs through

1 the 1950s and served in leadership positions on multiple
2 boards and with clubs, including as president of the
3 Springfield Jaycees from 1951 to 1952, where he was named the
4 most outstanding local Jaycee president of the year in 1952,
5 chosen from 100 presidents of Illinois Jaycee organizations;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer took his family back to
8 Jacksonville in 1962 after the death of his father, R.H.
9 Davidsmeyer, and his uncle, Paul Davidsmeyer, who founded the
10 Davidsmeyer Oil Company after purchasing the Cockin Oil
11 Company; the brothers renamed the company Illinois Road
12 Contractors; and

13 WHEREAS, Under Paul Davidsmeyer's leadership, the company
14 operated many different facilities from Paducah, Kentucky to
15 Utica, mostly based in central Illinois, and developed a solid
16 reputation throughout the entire Midwest; and

17 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer was instrumental in founding the
18 Illinois chapter of Ducks Unlimited, an organization dedicated
19 to conserving, restoring, and managing wetlands and associated
20 habitats for North America's waterfowl; and

21 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer was a founding member of Our
22 Redeemer Lutheran Church, where he served as an elder, as

1 president of the congregation, and as a choir member; and

2 WHEREAS, Paul Davidsmeyer has been the loving husband of
3 Saralee for 77 years; he is the proud father of Devon and
4 Cindy, the proud grandfather of Stephanie, C.D., Jayde, and
5 Mycah, and the proud great-grandfather of nine; therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate Paul Porter Davidsmeyer on his 100th Birthday,
10 and we wish him many more wonderful years; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Paul Davidsmeyer as an expression of our respect
13 and esteem for a truly remarkable life and a leading example of
14 a good man to emulate.