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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Martin F. Hawkins valiantly served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1943 until 1945; he served as an infantryman in Company G, 307th Infantry Regiment, 77th Infantry Division; his combat experience included action in Guam, the Philippines, and Okinawa, which was the last great battle of the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, In April of 1945, Martin Hawkins was wounded by shrapnel on the island of Ie Shima, which is part of the Okinawa Island chain, an island the 77th Division was assigned to recapture; he was evacuated to the Army hospital on the island of Saipan, where he received a Purple Heart medal for his wounds; he was transferred to Ordnance Company in Hawaii upon release from the hospital and was promoted to Tech Sergeant 5 while with this company; and

WHEREAS, Martin Hawkins was released from the service late in 1945 from Camp Grant and returned home to Chicago; his decorations include the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Pacific Campaign medal with three battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge, and the World War II Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, Like so many veterans of World War II, he did not receive proper recognition of his service; to further complicate matters, a fire in the Records Processing Center in St. Louis in 1973 destroyed the records of thousands of veterans; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the Veterans Administration restored the medals to Mr. Hawkins; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Martin F. Hawkins on the awarding of his medals  
2 for exemplary service to his country; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Mr. Hawkins as an expression of our deepest  
5 gratitude for his service to our country.