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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Sterling Named Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Museums

“Passionate.” “Talented.” “Wonderful.” “Dedicated.” “Fantastic.” These are just a few of the words reviewers used to describe Dr. Robert E. Sterling and his volunteer service to the Joliet Area Historical Museum. Sterling, Director of Distance Education and Retired Chair of the History Department at Joliet Junior College, was named Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Museums. He played a pivotal role in the museum’s acquisition of the 1909 Economy Motor Buggy and helped the museum secure its largest private donation to date, \$225,000 from Neal and Nancy Houbolt to design and build an exhibit about John C. Houbolt and his role in landing man on the moon.

The Illinois Association of Museums is a membership organization of institutions in Illinois that share goals relating to preservation and interpretation of history, prehistory, natural and built environments, and social, scientific, cultural and or artistic endeavors. Its mission is to assist member institutions to increase knowledge of professional skills in accepted museum practices, to preserve and interpret collections, to disseminate technical and scholarly information, and to increase audience participation in museum programs. The association’s Awards program honors the work of member institutions, recognizes outstanding achievement in the museum field, and honor institutions with a long history of accomplishment.

The Joliet Area Historical Museum submitted Dr. Sterling’s name for consideration in early August and was notified late last month that Dr. Sterling had been named Volunteer of the Year. The decision was a unanimous one, and reviewers asked “Can I have one just like him?” Dr. Sterling received his award at the annual IAM Awards Banquet, at the Historic Hotel Baker in St. Charles, Illinois on October 14th.

The museum congratulates Dr. Sterling on his statewide recognition.

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