



HR0358

LRB102 18695 ECR 27163 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, In 1966, Guido and Albert Zeller established
3 Avanti's restaurant on Main Street in Peoria adjacent to
4 Bradley University; and

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WHEREAS, Following the success of the Avanti's near
6 Bradley's campus, Guido and Albert decided to open a second
7 Avanti's restaurant on the west edge of the Illinois State
8 University (ISU) Campus in Normal in June of 1971; and

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WHEREAS, Avanti's quickly became an institution for
11 Illinois State University students and faculty; returning ISU
12 students and staff, as well as Normal residents who have moved
13 away, often choose it as the place they want to eat and bring
their friends and family; and

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WHEREAS, In 1973, Guido bought his brother Albert's share
and became the sole proprietor; Guido's brother Leo joined the
operation in 1976 and became an integral part of the business;
and

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WHEREAS, Guido and his wife Anna lived in Normal and
raised their four children, Marcus, Richard, Maria, and Judy;
they are all involved in the business and live in the area;
Guido became a U.S. citizen in the late 70s; he was very proud

1 of his dual citizenship and attributed much of his success to
2 the opportunities available to him in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Guido generously supported his Catholic faith
4 through Epiphany Church and School; Epiphany Elementary named
5 their playground "Guido's Grounds"; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, Guido's two sons, Marcus and Richard, are
7 involved in the ownership and management of Avanti's; in June
8 of 2009, they opened a Bloomington location on East Empire;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Albert retired in 2018, and his son Stefan became
11 majority owner and President and CEO of the five Avanti's
12 Italian Restaurants in Peoria, East Peoria, and Pekin,
13 Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, Avanti's continues Guido's generous tradition of
15 giving back to the community; the Special Olympics, the Baby
16 Fold, the American Cancer Society, and the ISU Scholarships
17 Foundation are just a few of the many charitable organizations
18 it supports, and it partners with many local schools and
19 churches in fundraising throughout the year with sales of its
20 signature bread and Gondola sandwich; and

21 WHEREAS, This year, Avanti's is celebrating a landmark

1 50th anniversary in central Illinois; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we congratulate and thank the Zeller family for 50 years of
5 great food and outstanding public service to the Peoria,
6 Pekin, and Bloomington-Normal communities; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the Zeller family as a symbol of our esteem and
9 respect.