



HR0531

LRB103 35881 MST 65966 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Marian  
4 Sanfilippo, who passed away peacefully on December 3, 2023;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo was born in Chicago on March  
7 25, 1935; she attended Providence High School in Chicago and  
8 received her bachelor's degree from DePaul University in 1956;  
9 she married the love of her life, Jasper B. Sanfilippo, at Our  
10 Lady of Mercy Church in Chicago on July 14, 1956; and

11           WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo worked as a second grade  
12 schoolteacher; and

13           WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo's family made their home in  
14 Barrington Hills; she raised her children and supported her  
15 husband's business endeavors as head of John B. Sanfilippo &  
16 Son, Incorporated; she also supported his passion for  
17 collecting automatic music machines and steam engines,  
18 eventually amassing a world-renowned private collection; her  
19 family began opening their home to local charity events in  
20 1985, which featured concerts on their 1927 Wurlitzer Theater  
21 Organ with 2,400 pipes; and

1           WHEREAS, By 1992, these charity events quickly outgrew the  
2 family's living room, and Marian Sanfilippo's family  
3 constructed a 325-seat theater addition to their home, the  
4 Place de la Musique, and expanded the Wurlitzer Organ to  
5 feature 8000 pipes, making it the largest theater pipe organ  
6 ever built and nearly a third larger than the organ at Radio  
7 City Music Hall in New York City; in addition, the estate  
8 houses the restored Eden Palais originally built in 1890, the  
9 most complete example of a European Salon Carousel in  
10 existence; the collection contributed to the preservation of  
11 hundreds of automatic musical instruments, phonographs,  
12 antique arcade and gambling machines, and many thousands of  
13 other mechanical inventions; and

14           WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo was always a smiling presence  
15 at the front door, welcoming hundreds of guests at each event  
16 into the family's home for concerts on the theater organ and  
17 gala charity events; over the years, her family's efforts  
18 through the Sanfilippo Foundation have helped to raise well  
19 over 25 million dollars for local, regional, and national  
20 charities, benefiting children and families, health and human  
21 services, and arts and culture; she and Jasper attended nearly  
22 every event for years, often holding hands during the  
23 concerts; and

24           WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo was a devout Catholic, and she

1 loved her parish, Saint Anne Catholic Community Church in  
2 Barrington; and

3 WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo was always quick to share  
4 laughs and attention with everyone she met; she had a warm and  
5 giving personality and will be remembered with deep gratitude  
6 for the contributions that she made through her philanthropy  
7 and her love of family, friends, and community; and

8 WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo was preceded in death by her  
9 beloved husband of 63 years, Jasper; and

10 WHEREAS, Marian Sanfilippo is survived by her children,  
11 John, Jim, Jeffrey, Lisa, and Jasper; 13 grandchildren; and  
12 two great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we mourn the passing of Marian Sanfilippo and extend our  
16 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew  
17 and loved her; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of Marian Sanfilippo as an expression  
20 of our deepest sympathy.