



SR0475

LRB101 12316 MST 61329 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to  
3 learn of the death of Joanna Bernadine Vanni on January 8, 2019  
4 at the age of 87; and

5 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni was born to Frank and Mary  
6 Breckenridge Kirchgessner in Metamora; and

7 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni was a graduate of the Metamora High  
8 School Class of 1948 and Rosary College, now Dominican  
9 University, Class of 1952; she completed master's level  
10 coursework at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago; in  
11 1954, she married Steno Vanni at St. Mary's Church in Metamora;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni was a talented pianist and organist  
14 who worked as a church organist in the Oak Park and River  
15 Forest communities her entire adult life, including 33 years at  
16 St. Vincent Ferrer, followed by time at St. Giles Church,  
17 Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church, and River Forest United  
18 Methodist Church, from which she retired in 2016; and

19 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni was, for many people, "a part of  
20 special events in our lives such as weddings, baptisms,  
21 concerts and special activities"; her music touched people;

1 often, her audience clapped their hands as she played a fast  
2 and upbeat piece, and many were deeply moved by the spiritual  
3 classic music she played; she was always willing to share her  
4 special gift of music; and

5 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni was a lifelong lover and supporter of  
6 the arts as a member of the Art Institute of Chicago, the  
7 Chicago Architectural Foundation, and the Guild of American  
8 Organists; she also was a season ticket holder to the Chicago  
9 Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric Opera, and the Joffrey Ballet for  
10 decades; and

11 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni loved animals and donated generously  
12 to numerous animal rescue organizations; she was known to spoil  
13 her "granddogs" and "grandkitties" with reckless abandon,  
14 happily noting that she could do so because they did not have  
15 to grow up to be responsible adults; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to her musical endeavors, Joanna Vanni  
17 worked full time as an insurance claims administrator for  
18 Employers Insurance of Wausau for 23 years, where she formed  
19 lifelong friendships with many of her co-workers; she often  
20 commuted to work by bicycle rather than drive in busy Oak Park  
21 traffic; and

22 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni, in her retirement years, traveled

1 extensively in the United States and Europe; she particularly  
2 enjoyed visiting many of the great cathedrals in Europe, taking  
3 special notice of their organs along the way; as a devout  
4 Catholic, these trips fulfilled her both spiritually and  
5 musically; and

6 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni was preceded in death by her loving  
7 husband, Steno; her daughter, Sylvia Candela; and her siblings,  
8 Fr. Julius Kirchgessner, Gene Elbert, Albert Kirchgessner, and  
9 Isabel and Anna Belle Kirchgessner; and

10 WHEREAS, Joanna Vanni is survived by her children, Paul  
11 Vanni, Bill Vanni (Lori), Jim Vanni (Julie), and Jane  
12 Vanni-Noone (Kevin); and her grandchildren Chrissy (Ben),  
13 Stanley, and Aidan; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
16 Joanna Bernadine Vanni and extend our sincere condolences to  
17 her family, friends, and all who knew and loved her; and be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Joanna Vanni as an expression of our  
21 deepest sympathy.