



HR1341

LRB100 24304 ALS 43583 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 Joseph J.
4 "Joe" "Mr. Fourth of July" Marino of Rockford, who passed away
5 on November 21, 2018; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Marino was born in Rockford to Gaspare and
7 Francesca (Cacioppo) Marino on September 27, 1926; he served in
8 the United States Navy on the destroyer USS Henderson, which
9 operated in the South Pacific and was based in Pearl Harbor
10 during World War II; he was honorably discharged July 24, 1946;
11 he received the Victory medal, the American Area Campaign
12 Medal, and the Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal; he married
13 Louise in Rockford in 1952; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe Marino was the TV pitchman for the Hanley
15 Furniture store in downtown Rockford from the 1950s until the
16 1970s; he was a longtime employee of Project First Rate; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 1963, Joe Marino had been in charge of the
18 Rockford Fourth of July Committee and, with the help of
19 volunteers and donations, turned Rockford's annual fireworks
20 show into one of the biggest and best shows in Illinois; he
21 turned the Fourth of July into a day of celebrating family,
22 friends, and America with a patriotic-themed breakfast, a

1 parade, and a pyrotechnic display that united the community and
2 brought in thousands of people; one year, when there was not
3 enough money for the fireworks show, he took a second mortgage
4 on his house to pay for it; he also organized other events for
5 Rockford families, including the Festival of Lights in
6 Sinnissippi Park; and

7 WHEREAS, Joe Marino was officially recognized as Mr. Fourth
8 of July by Mayor John McNamara on July 2, 1981, and July 4,
9 1981 was proclaimed "Joe Marino Day"; he was also recognized as
10 Mr. Fourth of July by President Ronald Reagan; in early 2010,
11 he was honored with a life-size bronzed statue, which was
12 placed in Joe Marino Park; and

13 WHEREAS, Joe Marino was known for his outgoing personality,
14 jovial nature, and tireless dedication to the city he called
15 home; a beloved civic leader who championed community
16 celebrations and festivals for half a century, he inspired
17 generations of local children and adults to enthusiastically
18 embrace the values of love, honor, and service to their city,
19 country, and families; and

20 WHEREAS, Joe Marino was preceded in death by his wife,
21 Louise; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
2 mourn the passing of Joseph J. "Joe" "Mr. Fourth of July"
3 Marino and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
4 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Joe Marino as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.