



HR0614

LRB103 39577 ECR 69834 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of John C. Katz-Mariani, who passed away on February 10, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, John Katz-Mariani was born to Carl Mariani and Doris Zimmerman on September 9, 1958; he was raised in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania, and he played on his high school soccer team; he attended West Virginia University before transferring to Northwestern University, where he studied literature and earned his bachelor's degree in liberal arts in 1983; he received his Master of Social Work (MSW) from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990; he married Paula Katz on September 2, 1990; he became a master gardener through the University of Illinois Extension, and he later earned a certificate in natural areas management from the College of Lake County in 2021; and

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WHEREAS, After working several jobs as a teenager, including at the famous Blue Bell Inn, John Katz-Mariani began his writing career at World Book Encyclopedia in 1985, becoming an expert on sponges in the process; he transitioned to working as a teacher at a therapeutic day school in 1986 and then at a residential facility called the Carson Valley School in 1988; and

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1 WHEREAS, After earning his MSW, John Katz-Mariani began
2 working for the Family Service Association of Bucks County in
3 1990; he then joined the Lake County Department of Health in
4 2002, serving as a social worker for individuals with severe
5 mental illnesses; and

6 WHEREAS, John Katz-Mariani coached his son's youth
7 baseball and basketball teams for many years; in order to
8 support his children's love of theater, he worked backstage
9 and became a stage manager with Big Deal Productions in
10 Buffalo Grove, where he continued to work with children and
11 serve the community long after his children had aged out of the
12 program; and

13 WHEREAS, John Katz-Mariani attended the Congregation Or
14 Shalom in Vernon Hills; he converted to Judaism in 1993,
15 becoming a bar mitzvah in 1996; he founded the Or Shalom
16 Mitzvah Garden in 2011, which provides free produce to local
17 food pantries in Lake County; and

18 WHEREAS, John Katz-Mariani was known as a dedicated,
19 involved, and thoughtful father; he will be remembered for his
20 humble, community-oriented, and generous nature; and

21 WHEREAS, John Katz-Mariani is survived by his wife of 33

1 years, Paula; his daughter, Claire; his son, Al; his siblings,
2 Jim, Carla, Tom, Dan, Ceci, Kathryn, and Peter; and his many
3 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we mourn the passing of John C. Katz-Mariani and extend our
7 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
8 and loved him; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of John Katz-Mariani as an expression
11 of our deepest sympathy.