



HR0239

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The institution of marriage is one of the
3 cornerstones upon which our society is built, and a marriage
4 that has achieved a notable longevity is truly a model for the
5 people of the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
7 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Mary Jo and George
8 Paoni on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, on April 13, 2007;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The former Mary Jo Gragido was born in Chicago in
11 1939 and moved to the Springfield area with her mother after
12 her father (a Chicago Policeman) died in the line of duty;
13 George Edward Paoni was born in 1934; he was raised in Arkansas
14 and moved back to the Springfield area from Arkansas when he
15 was a young man; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Jo and George met in 1956 through mutual
17 friends after George returned from serving in the United States
18 Air Force; they used to cruise the Icy Rootbeer and go roller
19 skating together; in November of 1957 their first son, Robert,
20 was born; in December of 1964 they had their second son,
21 Michael; their third son, James, was born in November 1965; and

1 WHEREAS, George Paoni worked as a meat cutter and Mary Jo
2 worked several different jobs until a temporary job, with the
3 House Republican staff, led to her 20-year career with the
4 House of Representatives, the last year of which was as both
5 Representative Saviano's and Representative Bellock's
6 Legislative Assistant; and

7 WHEREAS, Mary Jo and George Paoni built their life together
8 through love, hard work, perseverance, and a good sense of
9 humor; in 1973 their home was completely gutted by a fire while
10 attending a little league ballgame, leaving them with the
11 clothes on their back and no place to live; they moved in with
12 family and also lived in a hotel until they could move into
13 another home; and

14 WHEREAS, The respect for marriage reaches one of its
15 highest plateaus when a couple such as Mary Jo and George Paoni
16 celebrate their golden wedding anniversary; and

17 WHEREAS, Mary Jo and George Paoni stand as examples of the
18 best of our society, and their love and devotion to each other
19 and to their family and friends serve as a reminder to all that
20 hard work, dedication, and love can make a difference in
21 today's world; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
2 congratulate Mary Jo and George Paoni on the occasion of their
3 fiftieth wedding anniversary; that we commend them for
4 achieving a long and happy marriage, blessed with children and
5 rich in friendships; and we wish them happiness and good health
6 in the future; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Mary Jo and George Paoni as a symbol of our
9 respect and esteem.