



SR1290

LRB103 43160 ECR 76422 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Barbara Ann (Fox) Vanek, who passed away on June 6, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek was born in Seymour, Indiana on July 14, 1943 and was the only daughter of Harry and Alice Fox; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek attended Our Lady of Grace Academy in Beech Grove, Indiana and graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in 1965; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek spent two years working as a Catholic extension volunteer in Guymon, Oklahoma and, while there, became lifelong friends with Claudia Zinnanni; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek moved to Chicago, where she met the love of her life, Wayne Vanek, in 1969; she and Wayne married at Childerley Chapel in Wheeling on December 10, 1972; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek and Wayne moved to Oak Park after marrying and became active members of St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church, where they raised their children and pioneered a community, and she led the children's choir; and

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1 WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek served as the secretary of
2 Longfellow School in the early 1990s before joining RUSH
3 Medical Center as the office manager of the Youth Suicide
4 Prevention Program; she continued her career at RUSH, becoming
5 chief administrator of the Office of Research Compliance; and

6 WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek served on the board of PCC
7 Community Wellness Center for 18 years, helping them expand
8 into multiple locations on Chicago's West Side, which included
9 Illinois' first freestanding Birth Center; and

10 WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek loved to cultivate community
11 through her cooking and baking, which took the form of
12 homemade cakes and cookies for family, friends, neighbors, and
13 church functions; she also spent 16 years helping serve meals
14 at a Housing Forward, formerly PADS, overnight shelter; and

15 WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek's cooking and baking were shared
16 across numerous tables and helped cultivate countless hours of
17 laughter and deep conversation whether those tables were set
18 for breakfast or playing cards or served as the place of
19 theological discussions; and

20 WHEREAS, Barbara Vanek is survived by her husband, Wayne;
21 her children, Nathan, Ray (Rachel), and Seth; her

1 daughters-in-law, Allison Vanek, Hillary Stone, and Saunia
2 Powell; and her grandchildren, Alex Vanek and Sasha Vanek;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
6 Barbara Ann (Fox) Vanek and extend our sincere condolences to
7 her family, friends and all who knew and loved her; and be it
8 further

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