

As Introduced

**135th General Assembly
Regular Session
2023-2024**

S. R. No. 271

Senator Schaffer

A RESOLUTION

In memory of Emily Michele DeArdo.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 135th General Assembly
of Ohio were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Emily Michele
DeArdo and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends;
and

WHEREAS, Emily DeArdo left an indelible impression on the people
whose lives she touched, and she will be remembered as a spirited
individual who contributed immeasurably to the world around her. Emily
began working in the Ohio Senate as an Ohio Legislative Service
Commission Fellow in 2004. Following completion of the fellowship,
Emily joined the Ohio Senate to work as an aide for Senator Gary Cates
and then as a member of the communications team in the Senate
Republican Caucus. Emily was a strong advocate for organ donation as
she lived her life with cystic fibrosis and bravely became the first
recipient of a double lung transplant at Nationwide Children's
Hospital in 2005. She did not let the pain she surely endured
throughout her life define her or hold her back. Emily was a devoted
Catholic and lived her faith serving as a lector at St. Matthew Church
and is the author of *Living Memento Mori: My Journey through the
Stations of the Cross*; and

WHEREAS, Emily DeArdo's regard for improving the quality of life
in our society was clearly evident in her personal sacrifices of time
and effort to her family, friends, and community. Never content
waiting on the sideline, Emily was determined to use her knowledge and
talents to the fullest and leave an enduring mark on the world. In
2015, she was successful in her bid to be chosen as a contestant on
the television game show, *Jeopardy!* Although she did not end up
winning, she was pleased at having answered the Final Jeopardy

question quickly and correctly. Additionally, she was a lover of the 28
arts and possessed a beautiful voice and participated in community 29
theater. Giving generously of her energy and abilities in all of her 30
endeavors, she displayed exceptional concern and insight, and her 31
absence will be keenly felt; and 32

WHEREAS, Emily DeArdo always used her talents to the benefit of 33
others, including her parents, Carmen and Michele, her siblings, Bryan 34
and Melanie, and a wealth of other relatives and friends, and the 35
laurels of her life stand as a tribute not only to her but also to 36
those she left behind. Although the void her death has created can 37
never be filled, the legacy of care and commitment she established 38
will surely live on. The world is a richer place for her having been 39
in it, and she will be sorely missed; therefore be it 40

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 135th General 41
Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, express a profound 42
sense of loss and sincere regret at the death of Emily Michele DeArdo 43
and, in so doing, pay tribute to the memory of a truly unique woman; 44
and be it further 45

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 46
authenticated copy of this Resolution to the family of Emily Michele 47
DeArdo. 48