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LRB104 22196 LAW 38482 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Samuel Magad, the former
4 concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), who
5 passed away on May 25, 2026; and

6 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad was born in Chicago on May 14, 1932;
7 he won the CSO Youth Auditions, and he subsequently made his
8 solo debut with the CSO at the age of 11; he received a
9 bachelor's degree from DePaul University as a student of Paul
10 Stassevitch, and he later served in the United States Army
11 Orchestra in Washington, D.C.; and

12 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad joined the CSO first violin section
13 at the invitation of Fritz Reiner in 1958, and he was promoted
14 to assistant concertmaster by Jean Martinon in 1966; he was
15 then appointed to concertmaster by Georg Solti in 1972, a
16 position he held for 35 years until his retirement in 2007;
17 during his tenure as concertmaster, he appeared as a soloist
18 with the CSO, first performing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5
19 in 1972, and his ensuing solos were captured on several CSO
20 recordings, including Strauss's Ein Heldenleben and Also
21 sprach Zarathustra, Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, and
22 Beethoven's Missa solemnis; he also performed in numerous
23 chamber music concerts; and

1 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad founded the Northbrook Symphony as a
2 community orchestra in 1980, serving as the orchestra's
3 artistic director and conductor for 20 years until 2001;
4 during his tenure, the Northbrook Symphony was named the 1997
5 Orchestra of the Year while he himself was named the 1998
6 Conductor of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras;
7 he also served as concertmaster of the Grant Park Orchestra
8 and Aspen Festival Orchestra, where he performed as a soloist,
9 a chamber musician, and a conductor for more than a dozen
10 seasons; and

11 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad was the recipient of a number of
12 accolades, including receiving the Governor's Award from the
13 Recording Academy for a lifetime of outstanding service to the
14 art of music and being inducted into the North Shore Walk of
15 Fame in Skokie for his accomplishments as a violinist and a
16 conductor in 2000; from his alma mater, DePaul University, he
17 received the Distinguished Alumni Award, a Doctor of Humane
18 Letters in 2010, and the Pro Musica Award for his
19 extraordinary contributions to music and the arts in 2017; and

20 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad was a remarkable musician,
21 visionary, and cultural leader, and through his artistry and
22 dedication, he created not only an orchestra in Northbrook but
23 a lasting cultural institution that has enriched generations

1 of audiences and musicians in the North Shore community; and

2 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad was preceded in death by his wife,
3 Miriam; and

4 WHEREAS, Samuel Magad is survived by two children, four
5 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
8 Samuel Magad, the former concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony
9 Orchestra (CSO), and extend our sincere condolences to his
10 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Samuel Magad as an expression of our
14 deepest sympathy.