



SR0757

LRB101 14571 ALS 63474 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to  
3 learn of the death of Raymond "Ray" Oshana; and

4 WHEREAS, Ray Oshana was born in Baghdad on May 17, 1951; he  
5 came to the United States as a young man and started the  
6 Assyrian Athletic Club in 1970; since its inception, the Club  
7 has supported thousands of Assyrian youth and will celebrate  
8 its 50th anniversary next year; and

9 WHEREAS, Ray Oshana helped found the East Bird Band, which  
10 composed an iconic Assyrian Nationalist song, despite the fact  
11 that the band members did not know how to play musical  
12 instruments when they began; and

13 WHEREAS, Ray Oshana was an active member of many civic  
14 organizations, including the Assyrian American Association of  
15 Chicago; at the time of his passing, he was serving as the  
16 Midwest Regional Director for the Assyrian American National  
17 Federation; his name was well known among the members of the  
18 Assyrian community; and

19 WHEREAS, Ray Oshana was a pioneer in bringing Assyrians  
20 into mainstream American politics; he supported dozens of  
21 candidates and organized grassroots efforts to support the

1 interests of his community; he exemplified how immigration and  
2 the diversity it brings make the nation and local communities  
3 stronger; he will be remembered as a kind man with a vibrant  
4 personality who worked tirelessly to help Assyrians in Illinois  
5 and those facing deadly challenges in the Middle East; and

6 WHEREAS, Ray Oshana is survived by his wife, Nadia, and his  
7 children, Pierre, Ninos, and Mary; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
10 Raymond "Ray" Oshana and extend our sincere condolences to his  
11 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Ray Oshana as an expression of our  
15 deepest sympathy.