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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 Robert Scott Fuller, who passed away on September 13, 2019 at the age of 83; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Fuller was born on February 12, 1936 to Lillian Faye and William Pope Fuller in Searcy, Arkansas and was lovingly referred to as "Bobby Scott" until his college years; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Fuller graduated from Searcy High School in 1954 and Hendrix College in 1958; he then earned a Master of Arts from Union Theological Seminary in New York City; he attended Julliard School of Music, where he studied under Israeli-born composer Abraham Kaplan; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Fuller had many notable achievements while in New York, including serving as assistant director of the Collegiate Chorale at Julliard and performing in the Chorale at Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra with Leonard Bernstein as conductor; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Fuller was an accomplished pianist and choral director; he took those talents to Jonesboro High School in Arkansas, where he taught choral music for 14 years; he also

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1 served as choral director for First United Methodist Church and
2 First Baptist Church; and

3 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller taught summer courses at Southern
4 Illinois University and then accepted a job as choral director
5 at Oak Park and River Forest High School; he later became
6 director of the Fine Arts Department until his retirement; and

7 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller founded the Heritage Chorale, a
8 community choir for adults that continues his legacy; he served
9 as a past-president of the Arkansas Choral Directors
10 Association and the Illinois Chorale Directors Association;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller and his wife took choirs from
13 Jonesboro and OPRF on a performances tour to Europe every two
14 years; the group would always tour Vienna, Austria, his
15 favorite city; he and his wife would return to Vienna as often
16 as possible, independently of the choir; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller walked with crutches after
18 contracting polio as a 10th-grade student in 1951; however, he
19 never let his physical handicap stop him; he was a passionate
20 gardener, fisherman, and carpenter; his musical knowledge and
21 ability drew interest to his classes, but students stayed
22 because of his playful sense of humor and kindness; and

1 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller had such a lasting impact on his
2 students that a reunion performance named Fuller Fest was
3 organized in his honor; students travelled from all around the
4 country to participate in a weekend-long event that culminated
5 in a benefit concert; a scholarship dedicated to him has since
6 been established to honor the beloved teacher and mentor that
7 he was; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller was preceded in death by his parents
9 and his infant twin siblings; and

10 WHEREAS, Robert Fuller is survived by his wife, Anita Hart
11 Fuller; his children, Christopher Scott (Tina) Fuller and Karen
12 Harrison Fuller; his grandchildren, Madison Fuller (Jonathan)
13 Turner, Kennedy Blaise Keasler, Harrison Quinn Keasler, Zac
14 Morgan, and Rheanna Morgan; his brother, Bill (Cheryl) Fuller;
15 and his sister, Ruth Ann Fuller; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
18 Robert Fuller and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
19 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Robert Fuller as an expression of

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1 our deepest sympathy.