



HR0648

LRB102 25172 LAW 34435 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Gary G.  
4 Matts, who passed away on October 11, 2021; and

5           WHEREAS, Gary Matts was born on September 16, 1951; he  
6 began playing the drums and attending drum lessons by the age  
7 of six; he attended Lane Tech High School in Chicago, where he  
8 participated in the school orchestra and concert band; he  
9 attended the University of Illinois Chicago, where he studied  
10 Chemistry in his first year before realizing his preference  
11 towards studying music; he then switched to the Chicago  
12 Musical College of Roosevelt University, where he followed his  
13 true passion of playing percussion and graduated in 1974; and

14           WHEREAS, Gary Matts experienced a wonderful decades-long  
15 journey through a career in music, which led him to many  
16 genres, theaters, venues, and cities; he was known by his  
17 musician friends for his sense of humor and his parts in TV  
18 commercials and Broadway musicals; and

19           WHEREAS, Gary Matts shifted his focus from performing to  
20 labor leadership when he was elected president of the Chicago  
21 Federation of Musicians in 2004, of which he had been a member  
22 since 1969; prior to his presidency, he served on the Board of

1 Directors and as assistant to the previous president; his work  
2 as president encompassed negotiating several multimillion  
3 dollar contracts for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Lyric  
4 Opera, and various other musical organizations; he was also a  
5 board member of the American Federation of Musicians and  
6 Employers' Pension Fund; he retired from union leadership in  
7 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, Gary Matts' greatest love was his family; he and  
9 his wife, Kathy, had three children, Janine, Kevin, and Karen,  
10 who all followed musical pursuits well into their teenage  
11 years; he was always proud to share the accomplishments of his  
12 children on their different paths; he loved spending time with  
13 his cherished grandsons, who adored their grandfather; and

14 WHEREAS, Gary Matts was the husband of Kathy (Scheckel)  
15 for almost 45 years; he was the father of Janine (Alex) Silva,  
16 Kevin (Brigid) Matts, and Karen Matts; he was the grandfather  
17 of Joaquin, Stephen, and Vincent; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we mourn the passing of Gary G. Matts and extend our sincere  
21 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
22 him; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Gary Matts and to the Chicago  
3 Federation of Musicians, American Federation of Musicians  
4 Local 10-208 President Terryl Jares, as an expression of our  
5 deepest sympathy.