

BY: Senator COONEY

MOURNING the death of Howard A. Weiss,
distinguished violin soloist, chamber musician,
teacher, and conductor

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Howard A. Weiss of Brighton, New York, died on Friday, December 31, 2021, with good friends present; and

WHEREAS, Howard A. Weiss distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the music industry and his community; and

WHEREAS, His commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Howard A. Weiss' love for music flourished at the young age of three when he could identify the works of Johann Sebastian Bach by ear; just one year later, he began asking his parents for violin lessons as a result of falling in love with the recording of the song "Hora Staccato" by Jascha Heifetz's; he later started violin classes at seven years old, receiving a scholarship after several lessons; and

WHEREAS, Howard's most important violin teacher was Morris Gomberg at the Chicago Music College of Roosevelt University, where he was also on a full four-year scholarship; during this time, he was in the first violin section of Chicago's Lyric Opera, where he accompanied Guiseppe Di Stefano and Elizabeth Schwartzkopf, among other great singers of the era; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished musician, Howard A. Weiss notably performed with many top musical artists such as Duke Ellington, who played a 20-minute program privately for him in 1967; the New York musician also recorded albums with Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Torme, Chet Atkins, Henry Mancini, David Oistrakh, Leonid Kogan and Arthur Rubenstein, and toured with Johnny Mathis; and

WHEREAS, Before coming to Rochester, Howard A. Weiss was Assistant Concert Master of the Cleveland Orchestra under George Szell from 1965-1967; he performed the Beethoven Violin Concerto in 1967, conducted by James Levine; and

WHEREAS, Howard A. Weiss served 20 years as Concert Master of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra from 1967-1987, during which time he performed as a soloist more than 100 times, including during the premiere recording of David Amram's "Elegy for Violin and Orchestra"; and

WHEREAS, During his time with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Howard A. Weiss founded and was Music Director of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra which traveled the world and recorded 21 LP albums; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Howard A. Weiss leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Howard A. Weiss, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Howard A. Weiss.