



Dr. Samad Hafezi

AUG 8, 1931 - SEP 22, 2025



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
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Dr. Samad Hafezi, a respected scholar, educator, and former government official, passed away on September 22, 2025 in Washington, D.C. He was 94.

Born on August 8, 1931, in Tabriz, Iran, to Ali Akbar Hafezi and a mother of the Qajar royal lineage, Dr. Hafezi's life reflected a deep commitment to learning, public service, and cross-cultural understanding.

Before immigrating to the United States in the early 1950s, he served as a cavalry officer in the Shah of Iran's Imperial Guard, Under-Secretary of Health for the Shah's government, and translator for British Petroleum in Iran.

After arriving in the U.S., Dr. Hafezi pursued an extensive academic career. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Amherst College, followed by a Master's degree and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts. He later earned his Juris Doctor from the Antioch School of Law, now the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

Throughout his distinguished teaching career, Dr. Hafezi served as an assistant professor, post-doctoral researcher, and tenured professor at several institutions, including Old Dominion University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Chicago. He ultimately became Dean of the Graduate School at Strayer University in Washington, D.C., where he continued to inspire students with his intellect and passion for education.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Hafezi was also a poet and writer. His poem "As Time Passes" reflects his contemplative spirit and appreciation for the passage of life.

He married Helga Merz-Hafezi on July 7, 1989. The couple shared many years together and cherished their time living in Paris, France, a place that held a special place in his heart.



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Those who knew Dr. Hafezi will remember him for his selflessness, generosity, and steadfast dedication to helping his family, friends, and students succeed in all aspects of their lives.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Samad by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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