

2013-J6127

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of legendary romantic salsa vocalist Jose Luis Feliciano Vega

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 the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Jose Luis Feliciano Vega died on Thursday, April 17, 2014 at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Born July 3, 1935 in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Jose Luis Feliciano Vega, better known as Cheo Feliciano, was a composer and singer of salsa and bolero music; and

WHEREAS, As a child, Jose Luis Feliciano Vega was nicknamed Cheo by his family, a name which means Jose and is a term usually only used by close friends and family; in 1952, he moved with his family to New York City and settled down in Spanish Harlem; and

WHEREAS, At an early age, Cheo Feliciano began pursuing a career in music, leaving high school at 17 years old to study the best salsa orchestras in New York; and

WHEREAS, Cheo Feliciano's devoted interest in New York City's Latin music scene led to a stint as a Valet for one of New York's best-known salsa singers, Tito Rodriguez; this connection provided the opportunity to audition as a singer for bandleader Joe Cuba, and he soon became the vocalist for Cuba's sextet; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he recorded 17 albums with the sextet during the 1950s and 1960s on the Seeco and Tico labels; and

WHEREAS, By 1965, Cheo Feliciano was a soloist with many of New York's finest salsa groups and Latin music artists, including Eddie Palmieri; after a short retirement, he returned in 1972 as a part of Fania

Records' All-Stars ensemble, and also recorded as a solo artist for the label for a decade; and

WHEREAS, Cheo Feliciano's career experienced another rebirth in 1990, when he was signed to RMM Records; as with his previous projects, his records for the label spotlight his sensual, passionate vocal style; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Cheo Feliciano's album Una Voz, Mil Recuerdos, a tribute to various Puerto Rican Singers, was listed among the 20 outstanding recordings of the year by the National Foundation of the Popular culture of Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, The proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Cheo Feliciano was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award at the 2008 Latin Grammy Awards; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Cheo Feliciano 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 legendary romantic salsa vocalist Jose Luis Feliciano Vega; and the it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Jose Luis Feliciano Vega.