

CHAIR
Cities 1
MEMBER
Codes
Crime Victims, Crime and Correction
Investigations and
Government Operations
Judiciary
Rules



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

SENATOR LUIS R. SEPÚLVEDA
32ND DISTRICT

□ **Albany Office:**
Room 412
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2511 Office
(518) 426-6845 Fax

□ **District Office:**
900 Rogers Place
Bronx, New York 10459
(718) 991-3161 Office
(718) 991-0309 Fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rusking Pimentel, 718-991-3161, pimentel@nysenate.gov

Date: February 26, 2024

Senator Luis Sepúlveda and Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia Honor Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua with Presidential Volunteer Award and Legislative Resolutions During Dominican Independence Celebrations

Albany, NY – In a momentous event on February 26, 2024, the New York State Legislature became the backdrop for a ceremony honoring Dr. Rafael A. Lantigua, coinciding with Dominican Independence Month. Esteemed for his contributions to both the medical field and the Dominican community, Dr. Lantigua was presented with the Presidential Volunteer Award Medal by Senator Luis Sepúlveda, a first for both the Senator and the Dominican community. This accolade, issued by President Joe Biden, recognizes Dr. Lantigua's trailblazing service and achievements, marking him as the inaugural Dominican recipient of this honor from Senator Sepúlveda, and underscoring the event's historical importance.

The ceremony was further illuminated by the enactment of resolutions in both the Senate and Assembly, which celebrated Dr. Lantigua's significant impact. Senate Resolution No. 1642, introduced by Senator Sepúlveda, together with Assembly Resolution No. K874, led by Assembly Member Tapia and co-sponsored by Assemblymembers Amanda Septimo, George Alvarez, and Manny De Los Santos, jointly commended Dr. Lantigua's influential role in healthcare, education, and public service. These legislative tributes highlighted Dr. Lantigua's dedication to medical innovation, access to healthcare, and the reduction of health disparities, reaffirming his pivotal presence in New York's vibrant community.

Senator Sepúlveda stated, "Dr. Lantigua's exemplary career and philanthropic efforts embody the essence of commitment and service we aim to honor, particularly during Dominican Independence Month. His broad influence and accomplishments transcend healthcare, motivating future generations. It was a profound privilege to award him the Presidential Volunteer Award Medal, affirming his enduring influence on both our community and wider society."

Accompanied by Mrs. Sandra Harris, Associate Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Columbia University, and distinguished guests Mr. Rolando Robles, Mr. Carlos McCoy, and Mr. Miguel Cohn, Deputy Consul of the Dominican Consulate in NY, the accolade awarded to Dr. Lantigua represents his widespread impact and respected stature.

This event did not merely pay tribute to Dr. Lantigua's professional and voluntary endeavors but also highlighted the cooperative spirit of New York's legislative body and its dedication to recognizing outstanding community leaders. The presentation of the resolutions and the award underlines the state's commitment to honoring those who devote themselves to the betterment of society tirelessly.

Senator Sepúlveda continues to support and acknowledge the efforts of remarkable individuals like Dr. Lantigua, who lead the way to a more inclusive and promising future for all New Yorkers.