



General Assembly

**House Joint
Resolution No. 163**

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 7156



Referred to Committee on No Committee No Committee

Introduced by:

REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist.
REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
REP. KLARIDES, 114th Dist.
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.
REP. BAKER, 124th Dist.

SEN. BRADLEY, 23rd Dist.
REP. HENNESSY, 127th Dist.
SEN. MOORE, 22nd Dist.
REP. ROSARIO, 128th Dist.
REP. STAFSTROM, 129th Dist.
REP. STALLWORTH, 126th Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF
REPRESENTATIVE EZEQUIEL SANTIAGO.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 WHEREAS, on Friday, March 15, 2019, the State of Connecticut and
2 the city of Bridgeport lost a distinguished and beloved State
3 Representative with the passing of Representative Ezequiel "Chequi"
4 Santiago, at the age of forty-five; and

5 WHEREAS, he represented the 130th district with distinction for ten
6 years and to the date of his passing; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born in Camden, New Jersey, on April 20, 1973,
8 and raised in the South End of Bridgeport, Connecticut; and

9 WHEREAS, he attended Gibbs College, where he earned a
10 certificate in Computer Technical Support; and

11 WHEREAS, he was a city statistics analyst for the city of Bridgeport;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, he also had careers as a constituent representative for
14 the city of Bridgeport, a computer technical support representative for
15 On Line Marketing and an assistant teacher for Action for Bridgeport
16 Community Development; and

17 WHEREAS, he started his political career by volunteering on the
18 campaigns of his father, Americo Santiago, for State Representative
19 and Secretary of the State, and by assisting his stepfather, Mitch
20 Robles, with other local political campaigns; and

21 WHEREAS, he served on the Bridgeport City Council from 2005-
22 2008; and

23 WHEREAS, during his tenure as a City Councilman, he addressed
24 public safety issues in Bridgeport and helped secure Community
25 Development Block Grant funding for the YMCA, the South End
26 Community Center and the Cardinal Sheehan Center; and

27 WHEREAS, he was first elected as a State Representative in 2008,
28 representing the South End of Bridgeport and downtown Bridgeport
29 in a legislative seat previously held by his father, Americo Santiago;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, he served for five terms as a State Representative, and
32 served as vice chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, chairman
33 of the Banking Committee, vice chairman of the Labor and Public
34 Employees Committee, and member of the Commerce Committee,
35 Environment Committee, Planning and Development Committee and
36 Transportation Committee; and

37 WHEREAS, he also served as Deputy Majority Whip in the
38 Connecticut House of Representatives; and

39 WHEREAS, he was selected by his peers in the Bridgeport
40 delegation to lead the delegation in the 2019 legislative session; and

41 WHEREAS, as a member of the General Assembly, he worked
42 tirelessly to, among other things, win approval for a Bridgeport casino,
43 raise the minimum wage, extend the foreclosure mediation program,
44 protect worker's rights, improve police training, increase local police
45 force hiring, increase minority representation in the court system, close
46 the achievement gap and protect funding for local social service
47 agencies; and

48 WHEREAS, he is survived by his parents, Americo Santiago and
49 Evelyn Robles; his stepfather, Mitch Robles; his three daughters,
50 Lenymar Matos, ILenny Matos and Chelsie M. Santiago; his
51 grandmothers, Lydia Antonia Mercado and Olga Molina; his brother,
52 Eddie Omar Santiago (Jodi Anastasia Santiago); his two sisters,
53 Michelle Robles (Jason Rivera) and April Robles; and his girlfriend,
54 Paula Romero; and

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut
56 General Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt
57 condolences on the passing of one of its honorable members, Ezequiel
58 Santiago, whose death is a profound loss to the House of
59 Representatives, his family and friends, the residents of Bridgeport
60 and the entire State of Connecticut; and

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of
62 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be
63 sent to the family of Ezequiel Santiago, as an expression of the high
64 esteem and affection in which he is held.