

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-27

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

March 5, 2019

To celebrate Mrs. Casilda Luna, who is lovingly considered the “Abuelita” (Grandmother) of the District of Columbia’s Latino community, on her 94th birthday and to acknowledge her as a fervent pioneer in the development and advancement of the District’s Latino community.

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna has called the District of Columbia home since emigrating to the United States from the Dominican Republic in 1962 and began her life humbly amidst various cultural challenges;

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna, in her quest to lead a better life in the United States, soon taught herself English – a skill that she would later teach others;

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna, understanding the plight suffered by many members of the Latino immigrant community, developed community programming and asserted herself as a leader who would combat the high level of suffering and discrimination faced by the Latino and greater immigrant community;

WHEREAS, within the first 6 years of her arrival to the United States, Casilda Luna became a social worker and Latino Community Liaison for CHANGE INC, a community nonprofit organization that provided services for African-American, Hispanic, and low-income residents, where she was able to assist thousands of District residents seeking badly needed services;

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna has played a key role in the establishment of many Latino community organizations, among them: Educational Opportunities For Latin Americans, which is now known as VIDA Senior Center, The Hispanic Festival, the Latin American Youth Center, Latina Women In Action, the Imperial Tenant's Association, and the Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs;

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WHEREAS, the DC Afro Latino Caucus has organized the Friends of Casilda Luna Committee, composed of long-time Latino community leaders and emerging Latino youth leaders, and both have embarked on an initiative to properly recognize and honor the outstanding legacy of Casilda Luna in order to place her correctly in the annals of Latino community history;

WHEREAS, in addition, the Casilda Luna Committee plans to coordinate a series of recognition events during the Black History Month celebrations;

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna has received many awards and public recognitions for her meritorious services from various entities, such as community organizations, government officials, congressional leaders, churches, and youth programs;

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna also has served as the Grand Marshal of the Fiesta DC Festival; and

WHEREAS, Casilda Luna continues to be a pillar in the Latino community, where her work legacy and her important impact are felt on a daily basis, and she has left a fitting legacy in the Latino community, one that others would do well to exemplify and publicly recognize.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Proclamation and Tribute to Mrs. Casilda Luna Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and celebrates Mrs. Casilda Luna on her 94th birthday and celebrates her many contributions to the District of Columbia.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.