

House Resolution 400

By: Representatives Marin of the 96th, Scott of the 76th, Martinez of the 111th, Olaleye of the 59th, and Willis of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Celia Cruz; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia continues to mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished
3 citizens with the passing of Celia Cruz on July 16, 2003; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Celia Cruz was born Celia Caridad Cruz Alfonso on October 21, 1925, in
5 Havana, Cuba, and she became one of few women to succeed in the male-dominated world
6 of salsa music, earning the title "Queen of Salsa"; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Celia began singing professionally on Cuban radio and in nightclubs in the late
8 1940s and studied music theory and voice at a music academy in Havana from 1947 to 1950;
9 in 1950, she began to sing with the popular Cuban orchestra La Sonora Matancera and
10 collaborated on a number of legendary recordings; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in addition to their diverse Afro-Cuban music performances throughout the
12 Caribbean, South America, and the United States, Celia and La Sonora Matancera further
13 appeared together in five motion pictures; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1961, she married La Sonora Matancera trumpeter Pedro Knight and began
15 a series of musical collaborations with Tito Puente, Johnny Pacheco, Willie Colón, Ray
16 Barretto, and the Fania All Stars, popularizing the Latin sound in the United States and
17 Europe; and

18 WHEREAS, known as an artist who constantly reinvented her style, she further collaborated
19 in the 1990s with non-Salsa musicians such as David Byrne, Patti LaBelle, and hip-hop
20 singer Wyclef Jean and performed short dramatic roles in the films *The Mambo Kings* and
21 *The Perez Family*; and

22 WHEREAS, she received many honors during her career, including three Grammy Awards,
23 four Latin Grammy Awards, the President's National Medal of Arts, and countless lifetime
24 achievement awards; and

25 WHEREAS, Celia Cruz will long be remembered for her many outstanding artistic
26 accomplishments and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Celia Cruz and continue
29 to express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 public and the press.