

2013-J476

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Dolores Prida, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

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, Cuban-born playwright, journalist, and poet Dolores Prida died on Sunday, January 20, 2013, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Prida was born on September 5, 1943, in Caibarien, Cuba; in 1961, she, her mother and her two siblings reunited in Miami with her father, who had left the island-nation shortly after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution; and

WHEREAS, The family settled in New York City, where Dolores Prida took a job at a bakery and attended night classes at Hunter College for a few years before making an inroad into the publishing industry and launching her career as a journalist; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Prida distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, During the 1970s and 1980s, Dolores Prida was director of information services for the National Puerto Rican Forum, managing editor of the Spanish-language daily EL TIEMPO, New York correspondent for VISION magazine, senior editor of NUESTRO magazine, literary manager for the theatrical organization International Arts Relations (INTAR), and publications director for the Association of Hispanic Arts (AHA); and

WHEREAS, Dolores Prida began writing short stories and poetry while still a teenager in Cuba; in the United States she published her first book, the collection of poems, 37 POEMAS (1967), but it was as a playwright that she would establish her literary reputation; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Prida was one of the most active, as well as one of the first, female playwrights that nourished the New York Latino stage during the 1980s and 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Dolores Prida's first play, "Beautiful Senoritas," premiered in 1977; it was followed by "The Beggars Soap Opera"; "Coser y cantar (1981)"; "Pantallas (1986)"; "Botanica (1991)"; "Casa Propia" (A House of Her Own, 1999); and "Four Guys Named Jose ... and Una Mujer Named Maria" (2000); and

WHEREAS, In addition to her weekly column for EL DIARIO LA PRENSA, Dolores Prida was a long-time contributor to the DAILY NEWS and LATINA MAGAZINE, where she was in charge of one of its most popular columns, "Dolores Dice" (Dolores Says, in Spanish); and

WHEREAS, Dolores Prida's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her career, Dolores Prida received several distinctions: the Cintas Fellowship Award for Literature, the Creative Artistic Public Service Award for Playwriting (1976) and the Excellence in Arts Award, given by Manhattan Borough President (1987); in 1989, she was granted a Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Mount Holyoke College; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Dolores Prida leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Dolores Prida, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dolores Prida.