

2021-K149

Assembly Resolution No. 149

BY: M. of A. Cruz

CELEBRATING the life and accomplishments of Lorena Borjas, Mexican-American transgender woman, immigrant rights activist 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, Lorena Borjas of the Bronx, New York, died on Monday, March 30, 2020, at the age of 59, due to complications related to the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Born in Mexico City on May 29, 1960, in Veracruz, Mexico, Lorena Borjas studied public accounting in Mexico City; she immigrated to the United States in 1981, when she was 20 years old, with the intention of making the transition to life as a woman; and

WHEREAS, An indomitable activist who drew on her own experiences as a Mexican-American immigrant and transgender woman, Lorena Borjas devoted her life to helping others; she became a guardian angel for the transgender community in Queens, New York, helping women deal with such issues as sex-trafficking, police harassment, substance abuse and healthcare; and

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

WHEREAS, A true humanitarian, Lorena Borjas turned her home into a clinic when transgender women in Queens needed a safe place to be tested for HIV; furthermore, she was an advocate for countless members of her community when they faced deportation or arrest, often arranging for their legal representation; and

WHEREAS, Known as the mother of the transgender Latinx community in Queens, her tireless work on behalf of immigrant and transgender communities garnered recognition throughout New York City and the United States, especially when complications due to the novel coronavirus began to emerge; and

WHEREAS, The infinite selflessness and benevolence Lorena Borjas demonstrated throughout her life will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives she touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Lorena Borjas 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 celebrate the life and accomplishments of Lorena Borjas, and expressing its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

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