

2009-J6192

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 32nd Anniversary of the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES, to be celebrated on Friday June 25, 2010

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations and individuals who devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES, to be celebrated on Friday, June 25, 2010, at The Astoria World Manor in Astoria, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this special event will also recognize three honorees; they are: Vivian Torres-Suarez, BNS, MSN, Senior Vice President of Community Based Programs at Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, 2010 Homero Rosado Leadership Award recipient; Edwin Salas, President of Salcare Home Health Services, Inc., Homero Rosado Leadership Award recipient; and Bonita Hardwick, MPA, JD, Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, "Sharing and Building RAICES' Vision" Acknowledgement Award recipient; and

WHEREAS, Founded by the late Homero Rosado, the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES was formed in 1978 to fill a need for an organization which would provide services to, educate and organize the Latino, minority and low-income aged in the Borough of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, One of the Council's major accomplishments was the 1985 development of RAICES, a model program on how to reach and serve minority populations; through RAICES, the Council has been able to disseminate

information on successful practices and techniques for serving the isolated, hard to reach, inner-city and impoverished elderly; and WHEREAS, The Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES developed an "ethnic ramp" concept for improving access to services; in this model, culturally sensitive and bilingual services are used as tools to improve access and increase the utilization of services, benefits and entitlements for the aged; and

WHEREAS, The Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES' expertise in outreach services, information dissemination, cross-cultural training and services to Hispanic and other low-income communities is widely acknowledged within the aging network; and

WHEREAS, All of the services provided by the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES are targeted to meet the needs of low-income, older minority adults in Brooklyn and Queens; it sponsors the Red Hook Senior Center, the Wyckoff Gardens Senior Center, the RAICES Corona Senior Center, the RAICES Astoria Senior Center, the RAICES Gowanus Senior Center, the RAICES Times Plaza Senior Center and the SSI Outreach Program as well as many other services and programs; and

WHEREAS, The Agency's Executive Director, Jose R. Ortiz Ortiz, is experienced in program development, fiscal management, policy development and administration and is well-known in the field of aging and mental health; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of its 32nd Anniversary provides an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES for its exemplary and enduring service; and

WHEREAS, In so effectively carrying out its mission, the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES has demonstrated the value of community service and pride of heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the Spanish Speaking Elderly Coun-

cil-RAICES; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jose R. Ortiz Ortiz, Executive Director of the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES, and to the aforementioned honorees.