

2017-J1062

Senate Resolution No. 1062

BY: Senator SERRANO

MOURNING the death of Miriam Colon, a pioneering actress, founder of Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, distinguished citizen and devoted member of the community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their community and the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Miriam Colon of Ponce, Puerto Rico, died on Friday, March 3, 2017, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 20, 1936, in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Miriam Colon grew up in San Juan; from a young age, she was interested in theater; she began performing in school productions, auditioning in drama classes at the University of Puerto Rico while she was still in high school, and made her film debut at the age of 15 in "Los Peloteros"; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Miriam Colon moved to New York to pursue a career in acting; and

WHEREAS, Miriam Colon enrolled at the Actors Studio as the first

Puerto Rican member, leading to an abundance of roles in the early days of television; between 1955 and 1961, she appeared in 25 episodes of network shows; and

WHEREAS, For over seven decades, Miriam Colon went on to appear in scores of TV series and movies including feature films; some of her most celebrated roles were "The Outsiders" (1961), "Scarface" (1983), "Lone Star" (1996) and "Bless Me, Ultima" (2013); and

WHEREAS, Due to starting her career on the stages of New York's theaters, Miriam Colon founded the Puerto Rican Traveling Theater, with the goal of bringing free bilingual theater to all parts of the City; and

WHEREAS, The Pregones Theater Puerto Rican Traveling Theater found its home at an empty firehouse in Manhattan, New York, in 1981, where it remains today; Miriam Colon served as the artistic director through 2014, until the company merged with Pregones and she became the artistic adviser; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious theater was highly acclaimed by multiple critics and was considered one of New York City's theatrical adornments; and

WHEREAS, A vocal advocate of both funding for the arts and personal self-resilience, Miriam Colon was the recipient of multiple awards including the Obie Award for Lifetime Achievement in Off Broadway Theater and the National Medal of Arts; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her ex-husband, George Paul Edgar, Miriam Colon is survived by her current husband, Fred Valle; one stepson, Fabian Valle; one stepdaughter, Wendy Valle; and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to remember the life and accomplishments of legendary actress Miriam Colon, whose illustrious career will forever live in the hearts of many, and will continue to inspire generations to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Miriam Colon, and to express 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 Miriam Colon.