

Rothman Honors The Life Of "The Queen Of Salsa," Celia Cruz

17 Julio, 2003

Homenaje del Congresista Rothman en Honor de Celia Cruz, "Reina de la Salsa"

Le da gracias a esta famosa cantante por su extraordinaria contribuci3n a la m3sica del mundo

Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today honored the life of the "Queen of Salsa," Celia Cruz by entering the following remarks into the Congressional Record of the U.S. House of Representatives. Cruz died on July 16 at her home in Fort Lee, New Jersey, which is in Rothman's Congressional District.

"Mr. Speaker: I rise tonight to pay tribute to the "Queen of Salsa," Celia Cruz. Ms. Cruz passed away yesterday at her home in Fort Lee, New Jersey, which is located in my Congressional District. She is survived by her husband Pedro Knight.

"Born in Havana, Cuba, Celia Cruz fled to the United States to free herself of the brutal dictatorship of Fidel Castro. She became a United States citizen in 1961, and refused to return to her homeland as long as Castro remained in power. She did, however, attempt to return to Cuba for her father's funeral, but Castro refused to give her permission to attend.

"Celia Cruz is widely considered to be a pioneer of salsa -- reinventing and bringing Latin music to its now more familiar sound of upbeat dance rhythms, which are full of vigor and rich flavor. She was a performer in the truest sense. Her powerful alto voice carried her concerts, which were accompanied by sensational dancing that always seemed to lift audience members from their seats as they joined along.

"With a genuine love of life and passion for family and friends, Celia Cruz represented the true spirit of the Latin people through her music. But her music spread across the world. From Latin America to Asia, the music of Celia Cruz touched the live of countless people of all races, religions, and ethnicities.

"Throughout her six decade-long career, in which she recorded more than 70 albums and performed in 10 movies, Celia Cruz received many great honors, including a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, five Grammy Awards, two Latin Grammy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Smithsonian Institution and the National Medal of Arts, which President Clinton awarded her in 1994. Celia Cruz also received honorary doctorates from Yale University, the University of Miami, and Florida International University. Additionally, streets in Costa Rica, Mexico, Miami, and New York bear her name.

"The world has suffered a great loss with the passing of Celia Cruz. But the world is a much richer place thanks to the timeless music that she gave all of us, which will surely be passed on from generation to generation. To all of her fans from around and the world, and to Celia Cruz herself who is still with us in spirit and looking down upon us from heaven, I say, Azucar!"

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