

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**MOURNING** the death of Casimiro D. "Miro" Rodriguez Jr., a Latin music vocalist, bandleader, producer and devoted member of his community

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

**WHEREAS,** Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. of Buffalo, New York, died on February 10, 2017, at the age of 43; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Buffalo, Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. was an alumnus of West Seneca East High School, where he developed a love for Latin soul music, salsa and percussion instruments; by the age of 15, he was involved in Christian bands singing salsa coros, or refrains; and

**WHEREAS,** Shortly after graduation, Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. moved to Lorain, Ohio and became the lead singer and bandleader for multiple groups including, Orquesta Nissi, the Cleveland Salsa Allstars, Conjunto Carimbo, La Elite and La Formula; and

**WHEREAS,** Following his return to Buffalo, Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. was featured at First Night in 2013 and in "Salsa Meets Symphony" in 2014, with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in Kleinhans Music Hall; and

**WHEREAS,** An internationally renowned arranger, composer and producer, Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. was involved with many musical projects; in 2016, with the help of his wife, he founded Bea4Real Music Co., as an independent showcase for his own music and upcoming independent salsa artists; and

**WHEREAS,** Some of his well-known compositions include "De Ti Dependes (Tributo a Hector Lavoe)," "Dejaste," featuring Awilda Hernandez, and "Salsa en Navidad" with Johnny Vega; and

**WHEREAS,** Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

**WHEREAS,** Through his long and sustained commitment to his Hispanic Heritage, Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. has so unselfishly advanced that spirit of united purpose and shared concern which is the unalterable manifestation of our American experience; and

**WHEREAS,** Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr. is survived by his wife, the former Beatriz Camilo; four sons, Sebastian E., Luis A. Ortiz, Eldon Ortiz and Justin Ortiz; his parents Bedzaida and the Rev. Casimiro, Sr.; two brothers, Pedro A. and Jose M. and a sister, Marisol E., as well as a

granddaughter; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to remember the life and accomplishments of legendary musician, Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr., whose illustrious career will forever live in the hearts of many and continue to inspire generations to come; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr., and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Casimiro Rodriguez, Jr.