

Assembly Resolution No. 684

BY: M. of A. Zebrowski

MOURNING the death of Hector Soto, loving husband, father and grandfather, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community, and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Hector Soto was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Hector Soto, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Hector Soto passed away peacefully on April 21, 2023, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on December 27, 1946, Hector Soto migrated to New York with his family at the age of 14; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Hector Soto joined the United States Air Force and was trained as a military police officer at Lackland Air Force Base; he was then assigned to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, and served a tour in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968; and

WHEREAS, Upon his honorable discharged at the rank of Sergeant in 1970, Hector Soto began his career in law enforcement on May 31, 1971 with the Town of Haverstraw Police Department, rising through the ranks from Patrolman to Detective to Administrative Detective; and

WHEREAS, While a member of the Town of Haverstraw Police Department, Hector Soto received extensive training, including in Municipal Police, Basic Training for Police, Law Enforcement Officer's Training School, Arson Investigation, Criminal Investigation, Criminal Investigation Advanced, Photography School, Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Homicide Investigation, Advance Homicide Investigation, High-Intensity Drugs and Trafficking Area School, Race Relations, New York State Police Sex Offense School, FBI Surveillance School, and Rockland County Intelligence Officer's CTZ-4 School; and

WHEREAS, Following his 36-year career in law enforcement, Hector Soto retired in June 2007 and in November of the same year, was elected as a Councilman in the Town of Haverstraw; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Hector Soto was well involved with community organizations across Rockland County, often serving in leadership positions, including President of the Policemen's Benevolent Association of Rockland County, Inc., Commander of American Legion Post

No. 46, Grand Knight of the Haverstraw Knights of Columbus, President

of the Rockland County Police Hispanic Society, Co-Founder and Treasurer of the Rockland County Detectives Association, Grand Knight and Secretary of the Knights of Columbus, Haverstraw Council No. 581,

Founder and President of the Spanish American Bowling League, President of the Quisqueya Sports Club, Vice President of the Haverstraw Puerto Rican Day Festival Committee, and a member of the Haverstraw Elks Lodge No. 877, American Legion Post No. 130, St. Peter's Church Cursillo, St. Peter's Church Cornerstone, and St. Peter's Church; and

WHEREAS, Hector Soto is survived by his wife, Josefina Soto; son, Hector Soto and wife Erica Soto; daughter, Jasmine Bulusan and husband Nikko Bulusan; daughter, Erica Soto and fiance Carl Bennett; daughter, Daphne Reynoso and husband Angel Reynoso; and eight grandchildren, Nikko, Julian, Angel, Sophie, Caiden, Landon, Tristan and Grayson; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Hector Soto leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Hector Soto, 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 Hector Soto.