

Senate Resolution No. 4493

BY: Senator DILAN

URGING the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the historical significance of Roberto Clemente's place of death near Pinones in Loiza, Puerto Rico, by adding it to the National Register of Historic Places

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente was an American baseball legend who embodied the values of a model citizen; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente won two Major League Baseball World Series Championships, was named World Series Most Valuable Player, and was an All-Star for 12 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente served this Nation as a United States Marine Corps Reservist; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente was the first Puerto Rican inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente was inducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente was committed to caring and helping those in need, regardless of their location; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente selflessly chose to travel to an earthquake-ridden Nicaragua to provide humanitarian aid; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente's plane crashed shortly after taking off from San Juan-Isla Verde International Airport/Aeropuerto Internacional de Isla Verde on December 31, 1972; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente was only 38 years old when he tragically passed away; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente's passion and advocacy demonstrated the positive influence that professional athletes could have in improving the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente challenged the stereotypes that had marginalized native Spanish speakers in this Nation and remains an icon to many Puerto Ricans and Latinos in the United States and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Major League Baseball presents an annual Roberto Clemente Award to the player that best embodies Roberto Clemente's value of service to others and represents the game of baseball through extraordinary character, community involvement, philanthropy, and positive contributions, both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, Roberto Clemente was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Congressional Gold Medal for his civic and charitable contributions; and

WHEREAS, The crash site in the adjacent area to Playa Aviones in the municipality of Loiza, Puerto Rico, was the last place Roberto Clemente graced this world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the memory of Roberto Clemente as a great humanitarian and athlete; to recognize Roberto Clemente as the embodiment of a baseball legend that contributed to the betterment of society; and to request that the Secretary of the Interior recognize the crash site of Roberto Clemente's airplane and the adjacent land by adding such site to the National Register of Historic Places.