

**BY:** Senator SEPULVEDA

**HONORING** Bernie Williams for his outstanding representation of the Puerto Rican baseball community and his dedicated charitable work benefiting the people of New York State

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and celebrate individuals whose life and work uplift communities, promote cultural pride, and serve as a source of inspiration to people across the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Bernie Williams, a Major League Baseball icon, proud Puerto Rican, and tireless community advocate, has long exemplified excellence not only on the field but through his deep and ongoing commitment to charitable service and cultural representation; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bernie Williams rose to international acclaim as a centerfielder for the New York Yankees, playing his entire 16-year MLB career in New York, during which he became a four-time World Series Champion, five-time All-Star, and one of the most respected figures in the sport; and

**WHEREAS,** Over his 16-year Major League Baseball career, all with the Yankees, Bernie Williams compiled a .297 career batting average, won four Gold Glove Awards, and remains among the franchise's all-time leaders in hits, doubles, and postseason records; and

**WHEREAS,** Bernie Williams has served as a powerful and positive representative of the Puerto Rican community in baseball, inspiring young athletes of Puerto Rican descent across New York and beyond by showing that hard work, humility, and pride in one's heritage can lead to greatness; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his career and into retirement, Bernie Williams has consistently given back, supporting youth development, education, music programs, and health initiatives, helping to uplift underserved communities throughout the State of New York, particularly in urban neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS,** He has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funding for critical causes, including idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), which personally affected his family, and has championed access to music education through national and local partnerships that benefit students throughout New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Bernie Williams' legacy continues to reach far beyond baseball, as he uses his platform to advocate for cultural unity, educational opportunities, and compassionate community outreach, always remaining true to his Puerto Rican roots and committed to the well-being of the people of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Bernie Williams for his extraordinary contributions as a representative of the Puerto Rican community in Major League Baseball and for his continued charitable work that enriches lives across the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bernie Williams in recognition of his enduring impact on both the Puerto Rican community and the State of New York.