

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Minerva Solla, distinguished citizen and devoted advocate for workers' rights and social justice

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the lives of individuals whose commitment to the people of the State of New York has greatly enriched the communities they served; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow that this Legislative Body records the passing of Minerva Solla, a tireless advocate for working people, who died on April 15, 2026, at the age of 75, surrounded by her loving family; and

WHEREAS, Born on February 13, 1951, Minerva Solla devoted more than five decades of her life to advancing justice, dignity, and human rights for working families across New York State and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Minerva Solla's lifelong journey in labor activism began at the age of 15 while working part-time at Bell Telephone, where a strike by the Communications Workers of America awakened her to the transformative power of organized labor; and

WHEREAS, Despite only having been on the job for a few weeks and facing the threat of being fired, Minerva Solla organized her co-workers to join the strikers and stand on the picket line; and

WHEREAS, A pioneering member and community organizer of the Young Lords Party, she served as one of the first women in its Defense Ministry, further demonstrating her lifelong commitment to justice, equity, and community empowerment; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, while employed at Roosevelt Hospital, she helped lead a historic 47-day strike that resulted in union representation through 1199SEIU, a union within which she would go on to hold numerous organizing roles, helping to build it into one of the most influential in the nation while organizing workers across New York City and the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, Minerva believed in teaching her children the importance of standing up for what you believe in and did this by fully involving all three of them in the landmark campaign that would win union representation for 500 workers at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, A proud Puerto Rican leader, she championed cultural pride and social justice, founding the 1199 Latinos Unidos Committee to uplift Latino voices within the labor movement and throughout the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Her advocacy extended beyond labor, as she played a vital

role in cultural and humanitarian efforts, including coordinating medical missions in Puerto Rico following the devastation of Hurricane Maria; and

WHEREAS, About one month into retirement, Minerva Solla felt called to continue her work and would go on to become Upstate Organizing Director for special campaigns for the New York State Nurses Association, where she would help lead an unprecedented campaign to build a coalition in Ulster County to bring back 20 mental health and detox beds to Kingston's HealthAlliance Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Minerva Solla remained steadfast in her mission to help working people discover their own power in movements for dignity and justice, leading political action campaigns and contributing to the advancement of landmark legislation such as Paid Family Leave and the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act; and

WHEREAS, Minerva Solla was one of the founders of and would go on to Chair the Red Carpet for Social Justice, a groundbreaking coalition that continues to bring together women across labor unions, advocacy groups and communities to work toward women's leadership, empowerment and equity; and

WHEREAS Through her leadership, the annual Red Carpet for Social Justice Event was created, bringing together community leaders, advocates, and public officials in a powerful celebration of social justice work and International Women's Day; and

WHEREAS, Her tireless advocacy and stewardship in the campaign to have March 8 officially recognized in law as International Women's Day would come to fruition in 2023 with the passage and signing of legislation to officially commemorate the day in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her retirement, Minerva Solla continued to serve with distinction as Chairperson of the Red Carpet for Social Justice Women's Coalition, Executive Vice President of the Westchester Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (AFL-CIO), Vice President of the Retiree Division of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, and as a political organizer with the New York State Nurses Association; and

WHEREAS, Minerva Solla's unwavering dedication, leadership, and compassion touched countless lives, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations of advocates, organizers, and community leaders; and

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Minerva Solla, recognizing her remarkable contributions to workers' rights, social justice, and community empowerment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Minerva Solla.