



HR0436

LRB101 12698 ALS 61365 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Reverend Ruben I. Cruz on the occasion of his retirement from Chicago's First Spanish Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and his many years of work and service in the Latino community throughout Illinois; and

7

8

WHEREAS, Since 1964, Reverend Cruz has served as the Lead Pastor of Chicago's Christian Church, the oldest protestant Spanish-speaking congregation in Chicago; and

10

11

WHEREAS, In Chicago, Reverend Cruz is known for his media presence, which started with WMAQ-TV, Channel 5, Everyman Program of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago in the mid 1960s; and

14

15

WHEREAS, Reverend Cruz joined WLS-TV, Channel 7, as producer of the "Oiga Amigo" show, the first television program on WLS-TV that addressed the needs of the Hispanic community in the Chicagoland area; he co-hosted "Ayuda," a Spanish-language television program on WCIU-TV, and hosted "Esta Semana," a community affairs television program on Fox Chicago; he has participated in a series of interviews on WMBI, Radio Esperanza, the Spanish-language program of the Moody

22

1 Broadcasting System, about the political involvement of
2 Hispanics; and

3 WHEREAS, In the late 1970s, Reverend Cruz wrote a column in
4 Spanish for the Chicago Sun-Times; it was the first of its kind
5 to be published in a major newspaper in a metropolitan area in
6 the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1983, Reverend Cruz was the first Latino to
8 give the invocation at the Illinois House of Representatives
9 Inauguration, where he began in Spanish and then translated the
10 invocation into English; he accepted an invitation to give the
11 invocation at the 2003 Inauguration; and

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Cruz has served on many boards and
13 commissions, including the Governor of Puerto Rico's Advisory
14 Council on Mainland Puerto Rican Affairs, the Chicago Community
15 Coordinated Child Care Committee, the Communication Commission
16 of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, the Easter
17 Society, the Lincoln Park Zoological Society, the Chicago
18 UNICEF Committee, the Chicago Area Literacy and Reading
19 Centers, Inc., and the Commission of the Council of Hispanic
20 American Ministers USA; and

21 WHEREAS, Reverend Cruz has been appointed to the Illinois
22 Arts Council by Governor Dan Walker, where he served as

1 Chairman of the Media Panel, the State of Illinois' first
2 Spanish Speaking People's Study Commission by Speaker of the
3 Illinois House of Representatives Robert Blair, and the Board
4 of Health of the City of Chicago by Mayor Richard J. Daley; he
5 was a founding member and chairman of the Board of Directors of
6 ASPIRA, an organization devoted to helping Hispanics enter
7 college and continue their higher education; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Cruz has received many awards and
9 commendations, including being inducted as the first lifetime
10 member of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, a society that
11 honors individuals whose contributions to the betterment of
12 humanity have been accomplished on behalf of Illinois; he has
13 received the Centro Romero Lifetime Achievement Award and the
14 Governor's Citation of the Chicago Chapter of the National
15 Academy of Television Arts and Science for his programs about
16 Chicago's Hispanic Americans; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate Reverend Ruben I. Cruz on his retirement from
20 Chicago's First Spanish Christian Church and commend his 55
21 years of service to the congregation and the State of Illinois;
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Reverend Cruz as an expression of our esteem and
2 respect.