

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

16<sup>th</sup> Legislative  
Assembly

4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary  
Session

**IN THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO**

**S. R. 1616**

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Presented by *Mr. Rivera Schatz and Mr. Arango Vinent*

Referred to

**RESOLUTION**

To present a well-deserved recognition to the actress, singer and dancer Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero, better known as Chita Rivera, for her successful career in the Arts.

**EXPOSITION OF MOTIVES**

Deemed a National Treasure, the artist of Puerto Rican descent is recognized as one of the most complete artists in the entertainment industry. Her ballet training started at the tender age of eleven in Washington D.C. Five years later, Chita auditioned in New York before the legendary choreographer George Balanchine who, after seeing her talent, granted her a scholarship to the American School of Ballet.

At the age of seventeen, Chita accompanied a friend who auditioned for the choir in the play “Call Me Madam”, but it was Chita who was selected for the choir, and in short time, was moving from the choir to become the lead dancer for the company, thus starting the career of one of the Theater’s future legends. Once completely immersed in the world of theater, Chita worked in plays like “Guys and Dolls”, “Can, Can”, “The Snow String Revue”, where for the first time she got to sing and dance; “Seventh Heaven” and “Mr. Wonderful”, next to Sammy Davis, Jr.

On September 26, 1957, Chita went from being a great Broadway artist to becoming a star with her electrifying portrayal of “Anita” in the release of “West Side Story”. Afterwards, the success she had in New York was repeated in London, where she performed the show for one year. She returned to Broadway to lead the new musical “Bye Bye Birdie” next to Dick Van Dyke where her spectacular performance won her a Tony Award nomination for Best Actress.

Her career has been highlighted with brilliant performances in shows like “Zenda”, “Bajour”, “The Three Penny Opera”, “Kiss Me Kate”, “Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris”, “Father’s Day”, “The Rose Tattoo”, “Zorba”, “Bring Back Birdie”, “Chicago” and “Merlin”. Her performance with Liza Minnelli in “The Rink” in 1985 won her, her first Tony. Her magnificent work in the musical “Kiss of the Spider Woman” confirmed once again her star quality.

Chita has also been seen regularly on television, with appearances on all the important talk shows in New York like Dinah Shore, Garry Moore, Judy Garland, Carol Burnett and Ed Sullivan; as well as television series like “Will & Grace”, “Pippin” on Showtime, “Kennedy Center Tonight”, “Broadway Plays Washington”, her own production for HBO “Chita Plus Three”, “The New Dick Van Dyke Show” and “Live from Wolftrap”.

Chita was the first Hispanic distinguished with an Honor from the Kennedy Center in 2002. In 2009, she was honored by President Barack Obama with the Presidential Medal of Liberty, the highest recognition that can be given to a civilian in the United States. Today, she continues to delight her audiences with excellent performances, and is currently in Puerto Rico to present her acclaimed spectacle “Chita Rivera: My Broadway” in the Antonio Paoli Hall of Festivals at the Luis A. Ferré Fine Arts Center, in Santurce.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO:

2 Section 1.— To present a well-deserved recognition to the actress, singer and dancer  
3 Dolores Conchita Figueroa del Rivero, better known as Chita Rivera, for her successful  
4 career in the Arts.

5 Section 2.— To exalt the excellence and dedication that Chita Rivera has demonstrated  
6 throughout all of her artistic career.

7 Section 3.— This Resolution, in scroll form, shall be presented to Dolores Conchita  
8 Figueroa del Rivero, better known as Chita Rivera.

9 Section 4.— This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its approval.