

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 125

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta was the Executive Director of the Nebraska Mexican American Commission, now called the Commission on Latino-Americans, from 1994 until her retirement in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta was born on May 6, 1944, in Bridgeport and raised in Bayard where she worked in the beet fields as a child. Cecilia went on to graduate from the Lincoln School of Commerce in 1962, becoming the first Latina from western Nebraska to attend the school; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta became involved with the Mexican-American Student Association while attending the University of Nebraska, where she began her quest to be the voice of those whose voice was never heard; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta was a tireless advocate and leader who relentlessly highlighted the role and importance of Mexican Americans in Nebraska's history, culture, and economic achievements; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta was the recipient of many awards for her achievements, including the 1994 Woman of Color Award, 2001 Human Rights Award by the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights, 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Latino Heritage Awards; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta served on the Presidential Diversity Advisory Committee in 1997; and

WHEREAS, the work of Cecilia Olivarez Huerta included a photographic exhibition and report of oral histories that traveled the state and was installed at the Library of Congress, "Nuestros Tesoros: Una celebracion de la herencia Mexicana de Nebraska", which translates to, "Our Treasures: A Celebration of Nebraska's Mexican Heritage"; and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta died May 2, 2019, at her home in Lincoln;

and

WHEREAS, Cecilia Olivarez Huerta is survived by her four children, Janet Fiala of Lincoln, Anita Olivarez Eisenhower (Mary Ellen Moynahan) of West Hurley, New York, Michael Eisenhower of Lincoln, and Monica Olivarez Eisenhower of Sioux City, Iowa, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Nebraska Legislature recognizes the valuable contributions made by Cecilia Olivarez Huerta to Nebraska and its citizens.

2. That the Nebraska Legislature recognizes the thousands of Nebraskans uplifted by the dedication and work of Cecilia Olivarez Huerta.

3. That the Nebraska Legislature offers its condolences to the family of Cecilia Olivarez Huerta.

4. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Cecilia Olivarez Huerta.