

HR 8097

2025

## House Resolution

A resolution honoring the 100th birthday of Celia Cruz.

WHEREAS, born on October 21, 1925, in Havana, Cuba, Celia Cruz began singing professionally on the radio and in nightclubs in the late 1940s and, in 1950, joined the popular Cuban orchestra La Sonora Matancera, and

WHEREAS, over the next 15 years, Celia Cruz and La Sonora Matancera recorded 188 songs, including "Cao, cao maní picao," "Bemba colorá," and the song that won Cruz the first of her 23 gold records, "Burundanga," and

WHEREAS, in 1961, a few years after the end of the Cuban revolution, Celia Cruz moved to Mexico and then the United States, where she began a series of musical collaborations with Tito Puente, Johnny Pacheco, Willie Colón, Ray Barretto, and the Fania All Stars, and Cruz was one of the first musicians who contributed to the development of the Cuban dance music salsa in the United States and in Europe, and

WHEREAS, with an operatic, powerful contralto voice that moved easily through high and low pitches, and often wearing uniquely flamboyant wigs and ruffled or sequined costumes, Celia Cruz, the "Queen of Salsa," never ceased to dazzle her audiences, and

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25           WHEREAS, Celia Cruz was bestowed many national and state  
26 honors, including the National Medal of Arts in 1994; the Grammy  
27 Award in 1990, 2003, and 2004; the Latin Grammy Award in 2000,  
28 2001, 2002, and 2004; the Aplauso 92 Award for Best Latin Female  
29 Vocalist in 1989, 1991, and 1992; the Lo Nuestro Excellence  
30 Award in 1990; the Billboard Latin Music Hall of Fame Honor in  
31 1994; the Andalusia Award for Universal Artist in 1996; the  
32 Telemundo Network Artist of the Millennium Award in 1999; and  
33 the Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously,  
34 in 2016, and

35           WHEREAS, Celia Cruz received a star on the "Hollywood Walk  
36 of Fame" in Hollywood and the "Calle Ocho Walk of Fame" in  
37 Miami, and a portion of Meridian Avenue in Miami Beach was  
38 designated "Celia Cruz Way," and

39           WHEREAS, Celia Cruz was also awarded honorary doctoral  
40 degrees from the Florida International University and the  
41 University of Miami, and Cruz had felt such affection for Miami  
42 that, upon her death and in accordance with her wishes, her body  
43 was flown to Miami for a 2-day viewing, and

44           WHEREAS, Celia Cruz's image appeared on the Forever Latin  
45 Music Legends stamps issued by the United States Postal Service  
46 in 2011, and she is the first Cuban to be featured on a United  
47 States currency, the 2024 quarter, NOW, THEREFORE,

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49 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
50 | Florida:

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52 |       That, on the occasion of her 100th birthday, Celia Cruz is  
53 | remembered and honored for her lasting legacy and her remarkable  
54 | contributions to our musical world and to our appreciation of  
55 | the rich Cuban musical forms and dances.