

Resolution

Honoring and Commemorating the 107th Birthday of Francisca "Paquita" Morales

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago takes great pride in recognizing individuals who have made remarkable contributions to our community; and

WHEREAS, Francisca "Paquita" Morales, a resident of Chicago's 26th Ward, is celebrating her 107th birthday on June 6th, 2024, having been born on June 6, 1917, in El Barrio Palo Blanco, Corosal, Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Paquita was born into a large, hardworking family of nine siblings. She is the second oldest sibling, and her family worked in agriculture, planting bananas, cassava, vegetables, and coffee.

WHEREAS, Growing up without electricity or running water, Paquita vividly recalls bringing water from the river, collecting wood for the stove (fogón), and using an oil lamp (quinque) for light. She also raised chickens and sold eggs to support her family; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 18, Paquita married and had five children. She faced significant challenges after becoming a widow at the age of 35 but remained resilient and dedicated to her family, which has since grown to include numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Despite her modest beginnings and the obstacles she faced, Paquita emigrated to Chicago in the 1970s, settling on Potomac Street in the heart of the 26th Ward. Without knowing English, she worked diligently in a factory packing olives and successfully raised her family; and

WHEREAS, Upon her retirement, Paquita moved to Plaza Taíno Apartments on February 21, 1995, where she has become a beloved resident and integral part of Chicago's Puerto Rico Town community; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Plaza Taíno and the broader community cherish Paquita, celebrating her remarkable life and contributions to her community and family, embodying the values of hard work, resilience, and faith.

THEREFORE, Be it resolved that we, the Mayor and members of the Chicago City Council, do hereby honor and commemorate the 107th birthday of Francisca "Paquita" Morales, recognizing her extraordinary life and the joy she continues to bring to those around her; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Francisca "Paquita" Morales as a token of our esteem and best wishes on this momentous occasion.



Jessie Fuentes,
Aldersperson, 26th Ward