



REMARKS BY THE GOVERNOR  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
HONORABLE RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON  
IN APPRECIATION OF CONGRESSMAN  
CHARLES RANGEL'S SUPPORT TO PUERTO RICO

MARCH 17, 1989

Gatherings such as this one with old friends are highly enjoyable because they allow one to express appreciation for people who have worked long and hard to advance the best interests of the people of Puerto Rico. As we say in Spanish: Honrar honra.

Tonight I come to express, once again, my longtime friendship and admiration for Congressman Charles Rangel. What I wish to convey, in these very brief words, is what I have already expressed personally to him, and that is my deep appreciation for his continuous work in support of our island. It seems to me that gratefulness can never be redundant.

Mr. Rangel: we, in Puerto Rico, know and appreciate the time you have taken, again and again, to learn about our particular problems, the social and economic reality of life in our society. Your understanding of Puerto Rico has shed light in Congress at crucial moments, when it was most needed.

More important, you have translated that understanding of Puerto Rico into positive action and that action has consistently spoken --and spoken eloquently-- about the quality of the man called Charles Rangel.

Our people can never be grateful enough for the support you gave us in the congressional battle over Section 936 of the Internal Revenue Act. More than 300,000 jobs were saved here, thanks to your tireless support and that of other friends in Congress.

Now, in your support for the revitalization of the Caribbean Basin Initiative countries, you again have shown your commitment to those who are willing to help themselves.

I know no better definition of a friend than he who stands by you in moments of difficulty. In that sense, we Puerto Ricans are proud to consider you our friend.

Please continue to count on our support and feel at home in Puerto Rico, as one of its most distinguished adopted sons.