

MESSAGE - CITY COUNCIL

HONORABLE HARRY CURLEY  
MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOOD AFTERNOON, I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AND HONORED THAT I WAS SELECTED TO BE GRAND MARSHALL OF THE TWENTY THIRD PUERTO RICAN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN VINELAND. IT IS A DISTINCTION WHICH I COULD NOT DECLINE.

I WISH TO THANK MAYOR HARRY CURLEY, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR HONORING ME WITH THIS RESOLUTION. IT IS A MEANINGFUL TESTIMONY, <sup>THAT</sup> SHALL SERVE TO ENHANCE THE FEELINGS OF BROTHERHOOD AND GOODWILL BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY OF VINELAND AND PUERTO RICO. IT REPRESENTS A RENEWAL OF THE COMMITMENT TO PRESERVE THE CULTURAL AND MORAL VALUES THAT GUIDE OUR COUNTRY, OUR MINDS, AND OUR SOULS. BY HONORING ME, YOU HONOR THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY, HERE IN VINELAND, AND THROUGHOUT SOUTH JERSEY.

IT IS A VERY REWARDING EXPERIENCE TO BE HERE IN THIS CITY, WHERE SO MANY PUERTO RICAN FAMILIES HAVE FOUND, NOT ONLY ECONOMIC SUCCESS, BUT A REAL HOME.

DURING THE PAST DECADES THAT THEY HAVE COME HERE, TO WORK IN THE FERTILE FIELDS THAT SURROUND THE CITY, THEY HAVE SEEN THEIR FAMILIES GROW, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE THEM A FINE EDUCATION; THEY HAVE BECOME PART OF VINELAND, WHILE , AT THE SAME TIME, REMAINING PUERTO

RICAN AT THE RITE. I BELIEVE THIS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR CELEBRATING THE  
PUERTO RICO FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR.

TODAY I WISH TO SHARE THE HONOR YOU HAVE CONFERRED UPON ME WITH ALL  
MY PUERTO RICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO LIVE HERE, WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE  
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIVES WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT, AND ARE  
NOW AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS COMMUNITY, ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS OF THIS  
LOVED CITY AND THE HOSPITALITY OF ITS PEOPLE.

PRESS CONFERENCE

FIRST LADY OF NEW JERSEY, LUCINDA FLORIO  
HONORABLE HARRY CURLEY  
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GUESTS  
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS

GOOD EVENING, I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU SHARING IN THIS FESTIVAL, WHICH YOU SO PROUDLY ORGANIZE EVERY YEAR.

I FEEL HONORED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED GRAND MARSHALL THIS YEAR. IT IS VERY REWARDING TO WITNESS HOW OUR PUERTO RICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHO LIVE HERE IN VINELAND, COMMIT THEMSELVES TO PRESERVING OUR CUSTOMS AND MORAL VALUES THAT ARE PART OF OUR LEGACY AS PUERTO RICANS AND AMERICAN CITIZENS.

IT IS ALSO VERY REWARDING TO KNOW THAT, THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND CIVIC LIFE OF THIS CITY, THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE AND ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM WHEN THEY LEFT OUR ISLAND AND DECIDED TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN VINELAND.

I BRING A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO MY PUERTO RICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE TOILED TO IMPROVE THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING AND BECOME PRODUCTIVE AND VIABLE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY. I ALSO WISH TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY OF VINELAND, WHO HAVE MADE THIS CITY A HOME AWAY FROM HOME TO MORE THAN TWENTY THOUSAND PUERTO RICANS, WHO CAME HERE IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE.

MESSAGE - PARADE

DOKKHOOK

EVERYONE

GOOD AFTERNOON ~~EVERYBODY~~. BUENAS TARDES A TODOS. I FEEL VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE SHARING WITH ALL OF YOU THIS BEAUTIFUL PUERTO RICAN FESTIVAL, WHICH YOU SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY HAVE ORGANIZED FOR THE PAST TWENTY THREE YEARS.

ME SIENTO SUAVEMENTE COMPLACIDA Y EMOCIONADA AL COMPARTIR ESTA TARDE CON USTEDES Y LES AGRADEZCO HAYAN PENSADO EN MI PERSONA PARA ACTUAR COMO GRAN MARISCAL DE ESTE FESTIVAL.

NOS SENTIMOS ORGULLOSOS DE LA PARTICIPACION PUERTORRIQUEÑA EN LA VIDA ECONOMICA DE ESTE PAIS. NOS SENTIMOS ORGULLOSOS DE NUESTROS HERMANOS QUE RESIDEN FUERA DE NUESTRA ISLA Y QUE SE HAN DESTACADO PONIENDO EN ALTO EL NOMBRE DE PUERTO RICO. NOS SENTIMOS ORGULLOSOS TAMBIEN, PORQUE HACER TODO LO POSIBLE POR PRESERVAR LOS VALORES PATRIOS QUE NOS CARACTERIZAN Y QUE TANTO AMAMOS.

LES EXHORTO A CONTINUAR ESTA OBRA DE ENALTECIMIENTO DE NUESTRA CULTURA Y NUESTRAS COSTUMBRES. HOY DIA NOS ENFRENTAMOS A UN MOMENTO CRUCIAL EN NUESTRA HISTORIA POLITICA CON LA PROXIMA CELEBRACION DEL PLEBISCITO QUE DECIDIRA EL FUTURO DE NUESTRA PATRIA. COMO GOBERNADOR DE TODOS LOS PUERTORRIQUEÑOS, MI ESPOSO HA INICIADO ESTE PROCESO PORQUE HA LLEGADO EL MOMENTO DE DECIDIR LA CONTROVERSI DEL STATUS DESPUES DE TANTOS AÑOS DE DISCUSION. ASI SE LE BRINDARA A LOS POSTULANTES DE TODAS LAS SOLUCIONES UNA OPORTUNIDAD JUSTA PARA VENTILAR SUS ASPIRACIONES EN LAS URNAS. CON ESTE