



District of Columbia Statehood Congressional Delegation

US Senator Paul Strauss
US Senator Michael D. Brown
US Representative Franklin Garcia

A RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
PROVIDENCIA FERRERA PAREDES

WHEREAS, Providencia F. Paredes was born on June 9, 1924 in San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic and was best known as a longstanding personal aide to First Lady Jacqueline B. Kennedy, died on March 18, 2015.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Paredes, who first arrived in the United States in 1948 accompanying the Dominican Ambassador to the United States, and in 1952 would begin to work for John F. Kennedy, the young Congressman from Massachusetts, thus beginning a lifelong professional and personal relationship with the Kennedy family. Mrs. Paredes became a life-long resident of Washington, DC and was among the first Dominican to reside in Washington, DC.

WHEREAS, Upon Senator Kennedy's election to the Presidency, Mrs. Paredes became an American citizen and accompanied the First Family to the White House and was employed as Mrs. Kennedy's personal assistant. Mrs. Paredes' role was noteworthy as she was the first White House staff member in history to be of Hispanic descent and the sole Hispanic in the inner circle of Camelot.

WHEREAS, During the Kennedy White House years, Mrs. Paredes traveled widely with both President and Mrs. Kennedy. She accompanied President Kennedy on official state visits to Colombia, United Kingdom, Italy, Austria, France, Great Britain, Mexico and Venezuela. She was a companion to the First Lady on her visits to India, Pakistan, Greece, Turkey, Cambodia, Thailand, Mexico and Switzerland.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Paredes, Provi, as she was affectionately known by the Kennedy family and friends, was a friend and trusted confidant for two generations of Kennedys. She maintained a close relationship with the First Lady throughout her life.

WHEREAS, After the assassination of President Kennedy, Mrs. Paredes would work for Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy. The only person to have such a

distinction to work for all three brothers. By 1969, she assumed a position at the United States Postal Service in its Library Division from which she retired in 1992 after 31 years.

RESOLVED, BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, that this resolution recognizes and honors Providencia Ferrera Paredes for her historic and selfless commitment to public service, presented this Eleventh Day of April, 2015.

Senator Paul Strauss

Senator Michael D. Brown

Representative Franklin Garcia