

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Proclamation

oo0oo

HONORING CARMEN NECHELES

WHEREAS, Carmen Necheles, née Castañeda, was born in Humacao, Puerto Rico in 1921 as the youngest of eight surviving children, and she grew up with the blessings of a large extended family that included wonderful experiences with close siblings, cousins and friends, that were marked with celebrations filled with music, dancing, and wonderful foods; and

WHEREAS, Carmen met her first husband, Thomas Necheles, in 1954 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, while he was serving in the U.S. Army there, and after they married made Boston their home for the next 24 years, raising their five children, before Tom passed away in the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1960s, Carmen returned to college for her master's degree in Education from Simmons College and became an English as a Second Language teacher in the Boston Public Schools, retiring from teaching in 1994 at the age of 73, after many rewarding years; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, as an initial founder of the bilingual education program in Boston, Carmen served as the District Superintendent of the bilingual program as well as an Acting Assistant Superintendent in the Boston Public School system serving with passion to ensure the best education for all children in the city; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1980s Carmen met and married Albert Belton joining together their combined families that now consist of eight children, 16 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Carmen and Al moved to Arlington to live with her youngest daughter Anna and her husband Kevin Appel, where she still cooks fabulous meals nightly for them and continues to fill the house with friends and visiting family with celebrations of music, dancing, laughter, and wonderful foods; and

WHEREAS, Carmen belongs to the Our Lady Queen of Peace faith community and continues to learn by taking online courses through Arlington's Continuing Education program to further her own education; and

WHEREAS, Carmen's birth certificate says she is 100 years old as of March 28, 2021 but she claims that she is still 39;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matt de Ferranti, as Chair of the County Board in Arlington, Virginia, do offer best wishes to Carmen for a most joyous 61st celebration of her 39 birthday!



Matt de Ferranti
Chair