



RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Mourns the Loss of Former Staff Director Louis Nuñez

Washington, DC – The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights mourns the passing on April 30th of Louis Nuñez, former Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, a position to which President Jimmy Carter appointed him in 1979. Mr. Nuñez was the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be appointed Staff Director of the Commission.

Louis Nuñez worked throughout his life for economic opportunities for Puerto Ricans on the island and on the mainland. He was born in New York City to a Peruvian grocery store owner and a Puerto Rican garment worker, graduating from City College with a degree in business administration and honorably serving the country as a member of the armed forces in Korea.

Mr. Nuñez was a natural leader and ably led the Commission's large staff, at that time over 200 people, directing the Commission's many reports and publications that formed the basis for important federal civil rights initiatives.

He was later the national executive director of Aspira, a leadership development and educational counseling agency, and president and chief executive officer of the National Puerto Rican Coalition, the leading advocacy organization for Puerto Ricans. He was instrumental in bringing attention to those in the Puerto Rican community who were trapped in poverty, and advocated vigorously for educational improvements for low-income Puerto Rican children in the nation's public schools.

In retirement, he consulted on public policy and civil rights matters, served on many boards and commissions including the Bureau of the Census Hispanic Advisory Committee for the 2000 Census, the Center for Community Change, the Puerto Rican Community Foundation, the Hispanic Association for Corporate Responsibility, the Hispanic Leadership Agenda, and the New York City Board of Higher Education. For his leadership and many contributions to civil rights, he received an honorary doctorate from the City University of New York in 1992.

Staff Director Nuñez's service to the people of the United States and the trail he blazed as the first person of Puerto Rican heritage appointed to a high level federal civil rights post, will always be a beacon of hope for all Americans.

Signed:



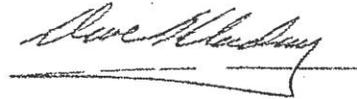
Martin R. Castro, Chairman



Peter Kirsanow, Commissioner



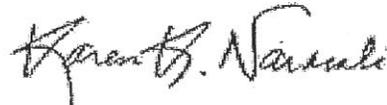
Patricia Timmons-Goodson, Vice Chair



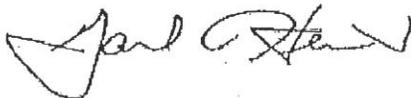
David Kladney, Commissioner



Roberta Achtenberg, Commissioner



Karen Narasaki, Commissioner



Gail Heriot, Commissioner



Michael Yaki, Commissioner