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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**HONORING PATRICIA EUGENIA LAVAGNINO-SPINOLA FOR HER OUTSTANDING  
DIPLOMATIC SERVICE TO THE GUATEMALAN COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY DURING  
HER STAY IN RHODE ISLAND, AND WISHING HER CONTINUED SUCCESS IN HER  
NEW DUTIES IN SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

Introduced By: Senator Juan M. Pichardo

Date Introduced: January 05, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Patricia Eugenia Lavagnino-Spinola was born on July 5, 1957 in Guatemala  
2 City. She studied law at the University of Landivar, studied private and public Administration and  
3 took courses on immigration and emigration, human and drug trafficking issues, and on human  
4 rights subjects at the University of Cranston and Ottawa University in Canada, Mexico, Taiwan,  
5 Guatemala, and Belize. In Mexico, she studied at the Diplomatic School of Matias Romero,  
6 attaining an Associate's degree in Diplomacy and International Commerce; and

7           WHEREAS, Ms. Spinola's exemplary Guatemalan diplomatic career began in Ottawa,  
8 Ontario, Canada where she was posted as Third Secretary of the Embassy of Guatemala. She was  
9 promoted to First Secretary and Consul while serving in the same embassy. In 1987, she was  
10 assigned as Guatemalan Delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization  
11 and held a temporary position at the Permanent Mission before the UNO; and

12           WHEREAS, In 1993, Ms. Spinola was transferred to serve as First Secretary and Consul  
13 at the Embassy of Guatemala in Mexico, where her primary duty was to provide protection to the  
14 Guatemalan transmigration. She was charged with providing protection and aid to Guatemalans  
15 in various humanitarian situations, such as Guatemalans who deceased in transit, amputees, to  
16 search for lost and kidnapped women and children, and other assorted duties and responsibilities;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, In 1997, Ms. Spinola was transferred to the Republic of China, where she

1 was later promoted to the position of Minister Counsellor. In 2003, she was transferred to the  
2 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala as Deputy Director of Consular Affairs, and shortly  
3 thereafter, to serve as the Director of Consular Affairs. In 2005, she was transferred to Belize to  
4 serve as First Secretary and Consul of the Embassy of Guatemala. Her main duties were to  
5 provide protection to Guatemalans and to assist the Ambassador in his political duties; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2010, Ms. Spinola was posted as Consul General of Guatemala in  
7 Providence, Rhode Island. She worked tirelessly with the local authorities, leaders of civil  
8 society, community leaders, and the private sector to provide services, information, and assistance  
9 to the Guatemalan community residing throughout New England. During her stay in Rhode  
10 Island, she admired the Ocean State's nature, cultural and tourist attractions, but most of all, she  
11 loved the people of our great state. On December 15, 2015, she was transferred to San Francisco,  
12 California, EEUU, to serve as Consul General of Guatemala. Rhode Island's loss is California's  
13 gain. We will sorely miss her commitment to justice and equality for all and her tireless devotion  
14 to the people of Guatemala, wherever they reside; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
16 hereby honors Patricia Eugenia Lavagnino-Spinola for her outstanding diplomatic service to the  
17 Guatemalan community, especially during her stay in Rhode Island, and wishes her continued  
18 success in her new duties in San Francisco, California; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
20 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Patricia Eugenia Lavagnino-Spinola.

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