

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RABIN

- WHEREAS,** Robert Rabin was a dedicated community member in the City of Boston, serving as a teacher in Boston Public Schools, a UMass Boston alumni, and a proud representative of the Puerto Rican community; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1980 Rabin visited Vieques, Puerto Rico, where at that time, two-thirds of Vieques' land was occupied by the US Navy and used as a live bombing range, to study the effects of US militarism; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For 60 years, the civilian population was trapped in this situation of the constant bombing of live explosives, including napalm, depleted-uranium projectiles, and other experimental weapons systems. They also suffered the highest rates of cancer on the island of Puerto Rico. Robert remained on Vieques and actively participated in environmental struggles; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Robert joined locals and became a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CRDV), a community organization that promoted the return of the occupied lands to Vieques and for a just and sustainable development of the island. In 2003, he spent six months in prison for participating in the mass civil disobedience campaign that helped pressure the U.S. Navy to end its bombing exercises in Vieques; *and*
- WHEREAS,** As a Bostonian, Rabin showed solidarity with the people of Vieques and the Puerto Rican nation to become one of them. He also showed his Bostonian pride when receiving multiple groups of Boston students and visitors in the museum; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In times in which we crave peace and empathy, Rabin exemplified the quest for peace-loving people and tenacity in his leadership. He helped cease the bombing and exile practices of the most powerful military force in history without violence, and his life's work will be remembered for generations after his passing; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,**

That the Boston City Council recognize the exemplary work of Robert Rabin and send its condolences to his family and friends

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