



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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File #: 21-3798, Version: 1

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### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JESÚS “CHUY” NEGRETE

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has called Jesús “Chuy” Negrete from our midst on May 27, 2021 and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete was born in San Luis Potosí, México, on July 5, 1948 to Melesia and Bernardo Negrete; and

**WHEREAS**, at the age of one, Mr. Negrete and his family migrated to the United States and spent his early years in Texas while his parents worked in the field and later his family settled in South Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete graduated from Chicago Vocational High School and received a bachelor’s degree in education at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and a master’s in education from Chicago State University (CSU); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete resided in the Rogers Park community and was a lifelong educator through his Mexican folklore ballads also known as *corridos*; through his tenure as a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) teacher; and as an adjunct faculty at numerous universities across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete rose to nationwide prominence in the 1970s during the Chicano Movement through his music which provided oral histories in English and Spanish to retell Mexican and Mexican American history from pre-Columbian times to the present; and

**WHEREAS**, he was closely aligned with the farmworker movement, performing for César Chavez’s United Farm Workers and Baldemar Velásquez’s Farm Labor Organizing Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete also provided performances, lectures and workshops to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, in venues ranging from public schools and libraries to union rallies and civic festivals, from prisons to senior centers; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete helped found Teatro del Barrio in the 1970s and often performed in the street theater troupe with his sisters; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than a decade, he hosted “Radio Rebelde,” a weekly bilingual talk-and-music program addressing issues faced by immigrant workers, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete is survived by his wife, Rita Rousseau; two sons; and four sisters, and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Negrete will always be remembered as the folk singer of the Chicano Movement; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer its deepest condolences and most heartfelt sympathy to the family, colleagues, and many friends of Jesús “Chuy” Negrete, and joins them in sorrow at this time of loss; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and a suitable copy of same be tendered to the family of Jesús “Chuy” Negrete that his memory may be so honored and ever

cherished.