

Latino Boston 2004

----DRAFT----NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tuesday, July 27, 2004

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Latino Boston 2004 Bestow Latino Leadership Award to Representative Menendez

National and Local Latino Leaders Celebrate Hispanic Excellence

Boston, MA—Over 400 national and local Latino leaders gathered today to pay tribute to Representative Robert Menendez (NJ-13) for his outstanding leadership role in the Latino community. Menendez was awarded the Paul Revere Bowl and Latino Leadership Award by Latino Boston 2004, a Boston coalition of Latino activists, elected officials, community leaders and stakeholders.

“It is a great honor to receive this Latino Leadership Award,” said Representative Robert Menendez, “and I am excited to be here with Latino Boston 2004 to celebrate the great contributions that Latinos are making in the city of Boston and around the country.”

Leading national Latino figures such as Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros; Los Angeles City Councilmember, Antonio Villaraigosa; and Former Small Business Administrator, Aida Alvarez spoke at the event. The event was sponsored by Coca-Cola Company and Verizon Communications, two corporations recently ranked in the top 10 companies for diversity within its workforce by Diversity, Inc. Magazine. Mickey Ibarra & Associates served as event manager.

“What is happening in Boston is a reflection of a national trend of Latinos coming to power,” said Henry Cisneros, Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, “It’s great that we are bringing Latino leaders from all different sectors—corporate, political, community, and grassroots leaders to celebrate excellence.”

Latino Boston 2004 is hosting a number of events to honor national Latino leaders attending the Democratic National Convention in Boston. The coalition was created last December to highlight the contributions of the Latino community to the social, cultural, economic and political fabric of Boston and to celebrate the presence and achievements of Latinos in this country.

“We created Latino Boston 2004 to bring attention to the important role that we, as Latinos, play in Massachusetts and across the U.S.,” said Félix Arroyo, Boston City Councilor, “There’s nothing more powerful than bringing together our most accomplished leaders to celebrate what we’ve done and to commit to working towards an even brighter future for our communities.”

Menendez, who is chairman of the Democratic Caucus, represents New Jersey’s 13th Congressional District. He is the highest ranking Hispanic in Congressional history and the only Hispanic ever elected to a leadership position, in either chamber, by either party.

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Latino Boston 2004 aims to celebrate the presence and achievements of Latinos in Boston and throughout the country who are diverse in culture, color, ideas, and dreams and who share a common desire to make life better for themselves, their families, their neighbors, and their state. Latino Boston 2004 committee members include Boston City Councilor Félix Arroyo, Chelsea City Councilor Roy Avellaneda, Massachusetts State Senator Jarrett Barrios, Tony Barros, Vanessa Calderon-Rosado, Carlos Ferre, Jovita Salcedo, Massachusetts State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez and Juan Vega. On Tuesday evening, Latino Boston 2004 will be honoring Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico at a reception in the South End of Boston.

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