Supervisor Romaine and Councilpersons Mazzei, Kepert, and Cartright Attend Honorary Street Sign Unveiling Ceremony for Felicia Ortiz-Ruperto

posted on 2/24/2014 5:23:31 PM

February 24, 2014

Listed from left to right: Matthew Ruperto, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Vivian Oritz, Councilman Tim Mazzei, Diana Renee,Councilwoman Valerie Cartright, Daniel Ruperto, and Councilwoman Connie Kepert by the newly unveiled honorary street sign

Farmingville, NY - On Thursday, February 20, friends, family, and community members gathered at the corner of South Orchard Road and South Country Road in East Patchogue for a ceremony to unveil an honorary street sign in memory of Brookhaven Town resident Felicia Ortiz-Ruperto. Felicia was 54 years old when she was killed in a hit-and-run accident in August of 2012 while riding her bicycle on Station Road in Bellport. Felicia was a special person who lived life to the fullest. She was a Worship Leader at Church on the Sound in Stony Brook, a Counselor for Project Rachel, a Photographic Imaging Student at Suffolk County Community College, and was the visionary behind the Felicia Ortiz-Ruperto Outdoor Photo Gallery project that has used artwork to beautify rides on the Long Island Rail Road. Felicia was a freelance photographer who loved music, church, and her family, and was an avid bicyclist. She is survived by her mother, Vivian Ortiz, husband, Daniel Ruperto, children Victoria "Tori" and Matthew "Matt", and siblings, Diana Renne, Angelo Ortiz, and Michael Ortiz.

Supervisor Romaine said, "It was an honor to share such a special day with Felicia's family. She gave so much to the community and lived her life to the fullest. So, it is a fitting tribute to dedicate this street in her name."

"We remember Felicia as someone who made a difference in the community and I am proud to honor her memory in this special way," said Councilman Tim Mazzei."Felicia's life ended tragically while she was doing one of the things she loved to do, ride her bike," said Councilwoman Connie Kepert. "Her tragic death will inspire us to continue to fight for safer streets for all users."

"Felicia was a member of the Church on the Sound in Stony Brook. She served as a worship leader at the church and a leader in so many other areas in her life," said Councilwoman Cartright. "She is greatly missed by her friends and family. All loss is difficult, particularly one that was as sudden as Felicia's. She is fondly remembered and it is my hope that this street sign dedication will help bring solace to Felicia's family as they reflect on the positive contributions she made within our Town."

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