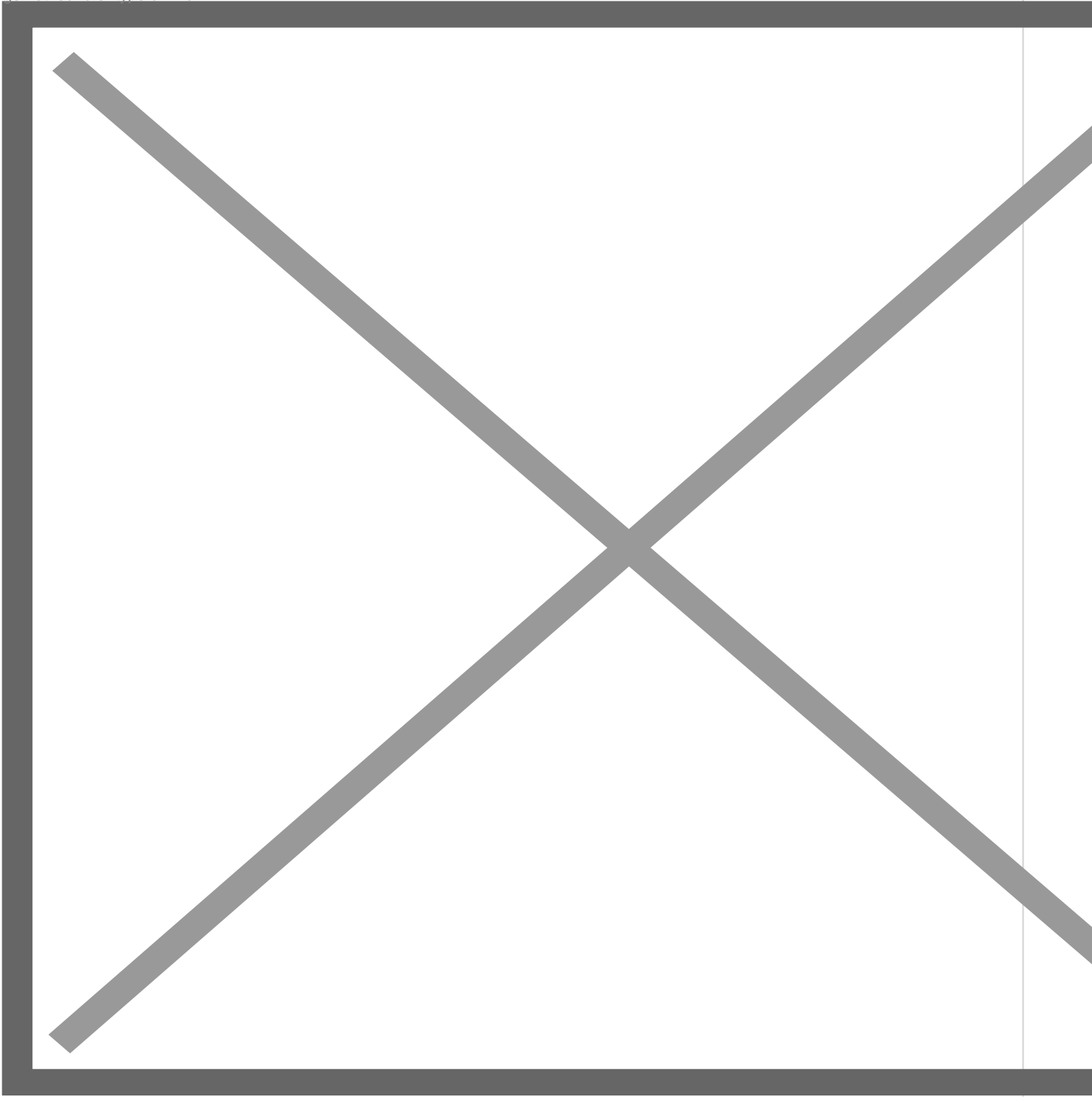


*Cuba and Puerto Rico renew
solidarity on Marti's anniversary*

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Puerto Rican Senator María de Lourdes Santiago

San Juan, Jan 30 (RHC) Puerto Rican Senator María de Lourdes Santiago said the triumph of the Cuban Revolution allowed to renew solidarity between Puerto Rico and Cuba as it was cultivated by José Martí.

The congresswoman, vice president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), talked about the bond forged by the National Hero of Cuba with the Puerto Rican patriots in New York that lasts until now.

During her lecture, sponsored by the Cuba Solidarity Committee on the occasion of the 170th anniversary of Martí's birth, the senator emphasized that in the link between the two nations, women played a significant role through the clubs formed as the basis of the struggle for independence.

In this sense, as Luis Toledo Sande explains in his biography of Martí *Cesto de Llamas*, the clubs operate as grassroots patriotic associations, with their organizational capacity free from bureaucratic impositions.

Both peoples have been twinned in the struggle since Martí founded the newspaper *Patria*, which preceded the Cuban Revolutionary Party, created "to achieve the independence of Cuba and to promote and assist the independence of Puerto Rico," said the PIP leader.

"Today we celebrate the renewed unity after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico," said the legislator before closing her speech with cheers to Cuba and freeing Puerto Rico.

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