

Edward M. Kennedy  
Massachusetts



## United States Senate

April 29, 1980

Mrs. Luis Munoz Marin  
Trujillo Alto  
Puerto Rico

Dear Mrs. Marin:

The passing of your husband saddens me. I know Luis' death is a tremendous personal loss, and my heart goes out to you in this time of grief.

Luis was an authentic hero of our modern age -- not only to the Puerto Ricans who loved and admired him, but also to people the world over who respected his brilliant, compassionate and visionary leadership. His tremendous impact on the history of Puerto Rico -- and I dare say the United States -- will shape the future of the Island for decades to come.

I greatly appreciate the courtesy you and your husband extended to me on my recent visit to Puerto Rico. I left your home knowing in my heart that I had been privileged to speak with a contemporary world leader. And although this great man has now left us, we will remember him always with the greatest affection and esteem.

With my deepest sympathy,

Sincerely,

*Ed Kennedy*

*My prayers are with you and the family*

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**LUIS MUÑOZ MARIN**  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

June 1, 1980

Senator Edward M. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear friend and Senator Ted Kennedy:

Thanks for your touching letter of condolences. Muñoz was indeed a great, creative, imaginative leader; one who envisioned a nobler future for Puerto Rico and endeavored to make it a reality.

He left his mark on all of us here, in a way no one ever achieved before. He was demanding with the strong, compassionate with the weak, exacting with himself and all the while, in good and bad times: generous, poetic, effective, understanding.

Muñoz Marín knew very well and often quoted "the past is prologue". In his last days he was deeply concerned with the vast problems ahead, with the need for democratic leadership in the United States. As you know, he died with the hope, which all of us share, that it might befall upon you now or later to help the democratic world out of its wilderness, better now.

With deep affection,

*Inés Muñoz Marín*  
Inés de Muñoz Marín

*Senator Edward M. Kennedy*