

(S. B. 527)

(No. 66)

(Approved August 11, 2009)

## **AN ACT**

To direct the Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name the Municipal Museum of Toa Baja, located in Sabana Seca Avenue in Levittown, after Irma Mercado de Picón.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

Mrs. Irma Mercado de Picón, better known as Irma Picón, was born in the Municipality of Arecibo on August 16, 1924. *Doña* Irma pursued studies in History and Business Administration. After she completed her academic career, she married Mr. José Antonio Picón. She moved with her husband to Levittown, Toa Baja, where she has been residing ever since 1968, and where she gave birth and raised her only son, José Antonio Picón-Mercado.

Her love and the desire to preserve the history and culture of Toa Baja inspired her to found the Centro Cultural El Cañal. She was also a co-founder of the Sociedad Miguel Henríquez and Organización Dimensión '70, a youth group engaged in promoting Puerto Rican folklore throughout the Island and in other countries. She was the president of the Toa Baja Cultural Center. She was also a notable member of other cultural organizations, such as the Puerto Rican Athenaeum, the Puerto Rico Writers Society, and the Toa Creative Workshop.

In the year 1993, she was designated Adoptive Daughter of Toa Baja. In addition to her remarkable endeavor in defending the cultural and historical heritage of the Municipality of Toa Baja, *Doña* Irma has written countless essays,

books, and articles. She has also lectured in schools and organizations on the subject of the monuments of our Island and the history of our people. She has been designated *Dama Distinguida* by the Abraham Rosa Savings and Credit Union. She has also participated in efforts to preserve the Candelaria Hermitage and the Levittown “small train.”

Her unfaltering dedication has earned her several awards, among which are: the El Cañal Award, Outstanding Citizen of Toa Baja (Levittown Junior Chamber), Fine Arts and Historic Preservation (Municipality of Toa Baja). The Patron Saint Festivities, in their 206<sup>th</sup> yearly edition, were dedicated to honor *Doña* Irma.

Her extraordinary endeavors to uphold our values and preserve historic landmarks are a master class for future generations in the matter of the protection of our culture. It is for this reason that *Doña* Irma is well deserving of being immortalized by naming the Municipal Museum after her.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1.—The Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby directed to name the Municipal Museum of Toa Baja, located in Sabana Seca Avenue in Levittown, after Irma Mercado de Picón.

Section 2.—The Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall take all the necessary measures to enforce the provisions of this Act, without being subject to the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended.

Section 3.—This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 66 (S. B. 527)** of the **1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislature** of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to direct the Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name the Municipal Museum of Toa Baja, located in Sabana Seca Avenue in Levittown, after Irma Mercado de Picón.

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March of 2010.

Solange I. De Lahongrais, Esq.  
Director