

(S. B. 528)

(No. 67)

(Approved August 11, 2009)

AN ACT

To direct the Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name Sabana Seca Avenue, in the Municipality of Toa Baja, after Juan “Picolino” Hernández-Ferrer.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Juan Hernández-Ferrer was born in the town of Aguadilla on May 8, 1933, to Mr. Juan Hernández-Varela and Mrs. Julia Ferrer-Vélez. He is the second to last among six children—Jaime, Matilde, Joaquín, Félix, and Haydeé. He is currently married to Mrs. Brunilda Ramírez and is the father of six children himself—Linda, Adónica, John, Erika, Rebeca, and Juan Carlos.

He completed his elementary and middle education at the Second Unit School of *Barrio* Montaña in Aguadilla. He completed his high school education at Aguadilla High School and Washington High School. He pursued studies at Columbia University and NY City College.

In 1949-1950, he went to New York, where he lived in the Brooklyn borough. In 1962, he set up his own business—a supermarket—and by 1966, he had 10 more: he was a successful businessman. In 1969, he resolves to return to Puerto Rico. Upon his return, he established a restaurant called Peyton Place in Bayamón. By 1970, he began to work as a pharmaceutical representative.

In 1971, he moved to Toa Baja and established a business under the name Levittown Paint & Body. In 1972, he acquired the Dorado Food Center in the town of Dorado, which he renamed Picolino Food Center. In that same year, he ventured into the political arena, within the ranks of the New Progressive Party. In 1975, he became the President of the 18th Precinct (Levittown, Sabana Seca, Ingenio, and Toa Baja Downtown). In 1976, he became the President of the Central Committee and by July 11, 1976, he won the primaries for Mayor by a landslide.

By November 2, 1976, Juan “Picolino” Hernández-Ferrer became the Mayor of Toa Baja, which office he won by an overwhelming victory. As of that day, a body of work began to take shape which made “Picolino’s” Administration different from that of anyone before him. His works marked the beginnings of Toa Baja as we know it today; thanks to him, this city has undergone continuous progress.

By the elections of 1984, he became the Senator for the Bayamón District. By 1986, he resigns from the said office, thus allowing for the Honorable Carlos Romero Barceló to take such office.

For his striving spirit, his unassuming attitude, his sense of humor, his perseverance, his sense of sacrifice, and his hard work, the Legislature hereby acknowledges the endeavor of this Puerto Rican in the town of Toa Baja, and in his honor, names Sabana Seca Avenue after Juan “Picolino” Hernández-Ferrer.

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 Sabana Seca Avenue, in the Municipality of Toa Baja, after Juan “Picolino” Hernández-Ferrer.

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. 67 (S. B. 528)** of the **1st Session of the 16th Legislature** of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to direct the Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name Sabana Seca Avenue, in the Municipality of Toa Baja, after Juan “Picolino” Hernández-Ferrer.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on the 1st day of March of 2010.

Solange I. De Lahongrais, Esq.
Director