

(S. B. 1812)

(No. 78)

(Approved March 7, 2003)

AN ACT

To declare November 15 of each year as “Philanthropy Day,” to acknowledge and promote valuable and generous philanthropic action of citizens on behalf of the People of Puerto Rico.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

November 15 has been declared “Philanthropy Day” in many countries of the world as part of an international effort to promote patronage in its multiple manifestations. In 1986, the United States enacted legislation for such purpose, commemorating a long tradition of the American people’s civic contributions to the country’s development.

It has always been acknowledged that philanthropic action, individual or collective, constitutes a foundation for the development of institutions and organizations that contribute the most to the collective life of the people: hospitals, museums and learning institutions, charitable institutions, etc., including the development of public works for the benefit of all. In Puerto Rico, the case of the Spanish gentleman, Mr. Valentín Tricoche, to mention an example of the past, represents the power of philanthropy and civic value of those who practice the same. *Don* Valentín provided the city of Ponce with an important public hospital that carries his name, as well as the Alfonso XII aqueduct, a beautiful structure that still exists today, and which, for many years, served the southern population. Contemporary figures who

have made philanthropy a personal commitment are, for instance, Mr. Angel Ramos, Mr. Francisco Carvajal, and Mr. Luis A. Ferré.

Puerto Rico must, without a doubt, join this international effort to promote generous gifts, which involves an act of true social communion, and a personal commitment to the country's continuous development process.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- To declare November 15, of each year as "Philanthropy Day," and set forth that the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall take the necessary steps to promote its celebration, and collaborate with public and private institutions and organizations interested in joining this celebration.

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 78 (S.B. 1812) of the 5th Session of the 14th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to declare November 15 of each year as “Philanthropy Day,” to acknowledge and promote valuable and generous philanthropic action of citizens on behalf of the People of Puerto Rico,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 3rd of March of 2004.

Elba Rosa Rodríguez-Fuentes
Director

