

(H. B. 1694)

(No. 122)

(Approved September 26, 2005)

AN ACT

To name the Antiguo Asilo de Beneficiencia present seat of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, located at Old San Juan, after “Enrique A. Laguerre” in recognition to his transcendental contribution to our people; and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The narrative of Don Enrique A. Laguerre made him one of the most influential figures in the study and recognition of our life as people. This distinguished Puerto Rican, born in May 3, 1906 in *Barrio Aceitunas* of Moca, captured the essence and daily life of our society and recreates with his pen, chapter after chapter, our collective history.

Novelist, playwright, short story writer, and teacher, we find in *Don Enrique A. Laguerre* a human being who is concerned about knowing his fellowmen. *My philosophy*, as the author said, *is not that I exist, but rather that I coexist. I cannot live by myself without my fellowmen; therefore, my great concern is for my fellowmen, in how to understand them.* Therefore, the description of characters, especially of their state of mind and emotions, as well as their motivations, acquire importance in his narrative.

His work *La Llamada*, which revolves around the sugarcane fields’ milieu of the Island, is considered the most important novel of the *Generación del Treinta*. According to many critics, *Don Enrique Laguerre* lays the foundations for the modern Puerto Rican narrative with the

publication of said novel, which won the first place in the literary contest of the Institute of Puerto Rican Literature. His second novel, *Solar Montoya*, presents the agricultural environment and the socioeconomic problems common to the same. This novel won the second prize in the Institute of Puerto Rican Literature. In the novel *El 30 de febrero*, the author moves the setting to the urban area: the slums of San Juan, boarding houses for university students in Río Piedras and an orphanage.

With the publication of *La Resaca*, a new fictional cycle begins for the author, characterized by the historical, political, and social development of Puerto Rico after the 19th century. *Los dedos de la mano*, *La ceiba en el tiesto*, *Cauce sin río*, *El fuego y su aire*, and *Los amos benévolo*s followed. In them, the author uses innovative narrative techniques such as the stream of consciousness flashbacks and the cinematographic language.

His career as novelist, short story writer, essayist and playwright as well as Hispanic-American literature professor in the University of Puerto Rico and as a member of the *Academia Puertorriqueña de la Lengua Española*, since its foundation, and of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, reveal that he devoted his entire life to the service of the national culture.

In 1975, the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture awarded the *Premio Nacional de Cultura* to Don Enrique Laguerre and in 1985, the *Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades* declared him Humanist of the Year. In 1999, he was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The narrative of Don Enrique A. Laguerre recreates a world with historical, psychological, and sociological traces which sharply describe the Puerto Rican reality and the historic evolution of profound Latin-American and Caribbean people. In recognition to his works, and for the profound and

transcendental contribution of his intellectual creations to the development and introspection of future Puerto Rican generations. The Legislature, which has always been committed to spreading and strengthening our Puerto Rican identity, hereby names the Antiguo Asilo de la Beneficiencia present seat of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture after Don Enrique A. Laguerre.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The Antiguo Asilo de Beneficiencia, present seat of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, located in Old San Juan is hereby named after Don Enrique A. Laguerre in recognition to his transcendental contribution to our People.

Section 2.- Once approved, the Department of State shall notify the Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico so that it may carry out the pertinent administrative procedures.

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. 122 (H.B. 1694) of the 2nd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to name the Antiguo Asilo de Beneficiencia present seat of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, located at Old San Juan, after “Enrique A. Laguerre” in recognition to his transcendental contribution to our people; and for other purposes,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1st of March of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director