

(S.B. 817)

(No. 4)

(Approved January 5, 2006)

AN ACT

To declare and establish the fifteenth (15th) day of July of each year as the birthday of the Puerto Rican writer laureate Enrique Arturo Laguerre-Vélez.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Don Enrique Laguerre was born on July 15, 1905, in Moca, the son of Juan Laguerre and Antonia Vélez, in the home he shared with seven (7) siblings. He studied in Isabela up to the fourth grade and concluded his secondary studies in Aguadilla. In 1919, *Don* Enrique acknowledged his love for literature and writing. He began his literary experience by writing poetry and subsequently prose for El Mundo newspaper, as well as for the weekly magazine Puerto Rico Ilustrado. In 1935, he published his masterpiece “La Lllamarada.” His other works include: “El 30 de febrero” (1943), “La Resaca” (1949), “La Ceiba en el Tiesto” (1951), “El Laberinto” (1959), “El Fuego y su Aire” (1970), “Infiernos Privados” (1986), and his last published work, “Contrapuntos de Soledades” (1999), among others.

He pursued his university studies at the University of Puerto Rico, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1938, and a Masters of Arts degree in 1941. He pursued doctoral studies at the University of Columbia in 1949. He was a professor at the University of Puerto Rico from 1942 to 1988 in the Hispanic Studies faculty. *Don* Enrique was not only a writer of prose, novelist, playwright, university professor and poet, but also a humble

man whose love for his country and literature was above all, a man worthy of our admiration and recognition through our “Borincano” homeland.

In 1999, *Don Enrique* the object of a national movement in which countless voices came together to propose him as candidate for the Nobel Literature Prize to the Swedish Academy in Stockholm. This group, headed by the Athenaeum of Mayagüez and “El Relicario” magazine exalted his life and achievements before the great writers of the world, as well as before the citizens of the world.

This extraordinary Puerto Rican, humanist by nature, died on June 16, 2005, leaving a great legacy of honor and service to the People of Puerto Rico. The people of Puerto Rico join in remembrance of a man who in life was a model to be followed by his countrymen and who will always be a part of Puerto Rican culture.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- To declare and establish the fifteenth (15th) day of July of each year as the birthday of the Puerto Rican writer laureate Enrique Arturo Laguerre-Vélez.

Section 2.- The Secretary of State of the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall, through a Proclamation, declare the fifteenth (15th) day of July of each year as the birthday of writer Enrique Arturo Laguerre-Vélez.

Section 3.- The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, together with the Department of Education, shall adopt the measures needed to comply with the purposes of this Act through the organization and celebration of those activities proper to the birthday and remembrance of the illustrious *Don Enrique Laguerre*.

Section 4.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 4 (S.B. 817) of the 2nd Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to declare and establish the fifteenth (15th) day of July of each year as the birthday of the Puerto Rican writer laureate Enrique Arturo Laguerre-Vélez,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 2nd of June of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director