

(S.B. 1273)

(No. 130)

(Approved July 21, 2006)

## AN ACT

To direct the Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name the Yauco Government Center after the illustrious Puerto Rican, Atty. Ramón “Moncho” García-Santiago.

### STATEMENT OF MOTIVE

The day on which a child named Ramón García-Santiago first saw the light of day in the beautiful town of Yauco, *Pueblo del Café*, there began to shine what in time would become a brightly shining star in the intellectual sphere and in the public service field in Puerto Rico. This child was born in a home of humble parents who enjoyed a solid heritage of the highest Christian principles.

Ramón García-Santiago, that child destined to be person of great value to his country, initiated his intellectual development by first attending the *Colegio Santísimo Rosario* in 1931-32 and later the public schools of his hometown, the Luis Muñoz Rivera School and the Santiago Negroni High School, from where he graduated in 1943. While the Second World War was at its height 1944-47[sic], García Santiago initiated his studies at the University of Puerto Rico where he obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Humanities (Magna Cum Laude).

In 1952-53, while the Korean War was in full development, he initiated graduate studies at Harvard University from where he obtained a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

“Don Moncho,” as he was known by his friends and closest collaborators, distinguished himself by being the Puerto Rican who has held the greatest number and most prestigious public service positions and offices in the Government of Puerto Rico. To wit: 1947 – Technical Officer, Bureau of the Budget, Office of the Governor; Director of the Bureau of the Budget (1958); President of the Planning Board (1960); Member of the Bayamón Municipal Assembly (1964); again President of the Planning Board; and in 1947, Secretary of the Department of Social Services. It was precisely “Moncho” the official responsible for implementing the Food Stamps Program in Puerto Rico under the government of former Governor Rafael Hernández-Colón.

In 1975, Ramon García-Santiago held the office of Director of the Graduate School in Public Administration of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. In 1980, he obtained the title of Juris Doctor from the School of Law of the University of Puerto Rico.

In 1985 he went on to occupy the position of Secretary of the Senate of Puerto Rico under the presidency of Miguel Hernández-Agosto. During the 1989-1992 quatenium he held office as Secretary of the Treasury and was appointed President of the Board of Directors of the Government Development Bank under Governor Rafael Hernández-Colón.

In July 1992, he retired from public service after 43 years of fruitful service to the people of Puerto Rico. Already retired in 1993, he was appointed by Federal Judge Juan Pérez-Giménez as Advisor to the Defendants in the Morales Feliciano case and in 2001 the Chief Justice of

the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico designated him as Member of the Judicial Discipline Commission. During the course of his public life he was member of over twenty Government Boards, Committees and Commissions.

There is no doubt that the absence of the talents and the extraordinary commitment to public service of servants such as Ramón García-Santiago, a citizen of Yauco of the first order, has been deeply felt in the government.

We are sure that the people of Yauco in their entirety, beyond their political beliefs, will feel honored by the designation of their Government Center with the name of Ramón García-Santiago because of the unprecedented achievements of their fellow brother from Yauco.

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

Section 1.-The Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby directed to name the Yauco Government Center after the illustrious Puerto Rican, Atty. Ramón “Moncho” García-Santiago.

Section 2.-The Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby exempted from the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended. However, the Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, in conjunction with the Municipal Government of Yauco, are entrusted with the task of taking the actions needed to implement the provisions of this Act.

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. 130 (S.B. 1273) of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to direct the Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name the Yauco Government Center after the illustrious Puerto Rican, Atty. Ramón “Moncho” García-Santiago,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1<sup>st</sup> of September of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director