

(H. B. 2356)

(No. 189)

(Approved September 1, 2006)

AN ACT

To name the middle school located on Nativo Alers Avenue in the Municipality of Aguada after the illustrious educator, Professor Juana Rosario-Carrero.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Throughout the history of our system of education, great educators have always distinguished themselves, selflessness; public employees who, with their hard work, compromise and devotion, have left a legacy to the intellectual and professional development of our beloved Puerto Rico. Aguada is one of the blessed cities fortunate to have had *Doña* Juana Rosario-Carrero among its most distinguished teachers. This illustrious educator was born on February 10, 1929, at *Barrio* Jagüey in Aguada. She was the fourth of five children born to Crispín Rosario, a sugarcane worker, and Úrsula Carrero, a housewife. From her early years, Juana Rosario-Carrero showed interest in the school overcoming *Doña* Úrsula's oposition, who according to the customs of her time, would rather have an additional pair of hands working to support her home. Juana Rosario-Carrero attended to Second Unit School of Jagüey during her primary and middle school years.

Many are the anecdotes about her talent declaiming poetry and her participation in competitions sponsored by the Department of Education. She told about how she had to borrow her older brother's shoes to participate

in an islandwide; academic competition; once there, she had to stand on a table so that she could be seen. She won first prize for her participation and also her first and only doll. Juana Rosario-Carrero graduated from the first High School established in Aguada, which was located in an urban area, the *Moropó Sector*.

Upon completing her high school education, her dreams to continue a college education were challenged by serious financial limitations. Her father, as a graduation present, gave her the money to pay for the train ticket that would take her to the University of Puerto Rico to apply for a scholarship that would allow her to study. Reminiscing about this try gave her the strength to overcome many difficult situations throughout her life. According to her, it was the first time she left her hometown, alone, scared and with no money in her pockets. When the train stopped so the passengers could have breakfast, she climbed a grapefruit tree and took three grapefruit that were her lunch for the day. After hearing her story, the financial aid official not only granted her a scholarship that included room and board, but also invited her to dinner and gave her money to pay for her return ticket.

Said train trip was the beginning of a new phase in her life. She obtained a scholarship that paid for her studies as normal teacher (associate degree in education). She began her college education in 1947. Her first teaching job was at the Guayabo Playa (currently *Capilla de Guayabo*) School. Around that time, in 1954, she married Eduardo Varela, with whom she had ten children. One of her many outstanding qualities was courage, the enthusiasm with which she undertook any activity, even though it cost her; as long as it was for the Glory of God and the well being of others. Her decisions were well thought out, therefore, when she made them she was convinced that she was doing the right thing. Obviously, the difficulties she

had to overcome from childhood contributed to the formation of her character.

Juana Rosario-Carrero taught at the elementary school of the town for many years. She sometimes, worked with children who were severely behind in their reading and writing skills, where she displayed her excellent teaching abilities. Her enterprising spirit made her complete her Bachelor's Degree in Education and subsequently, a Master's Degree in Vocational Counseling. The latter, obtained while working full time and taking care of her home and her ten children.

Her years as counselor at the Arsenio Martínez Middle School, allowed her to help students on a more personal basis, thus motivating many of them to continue studying and achieving their dreams. Juana Rosario-Carrero participated together with *Don* Pedro Pablo Cancel in a pilot project which would start the Night School Program.

At a personal level, Juana Rosario-Carrero was an exceptional mother and wife. She worked untiringly in social programs through the Catholic Church. She was the first woman to become Eucharistic Minister of the Mayagüez Diocese. She was a preacher, catechist, member of the Parish Council, and of the pastoral for the Ill, and local leader of the Catholic Social Services organization.

In conclusion, she was a hard-working and untiring woman, devoted to the social wellbeing and education of her people and of countless talents that she placed at their service. She passed away on October 25, 1989.

The House of Representatives of Puerto Rico recognizes the value, the achievements attained and mostly the valuable contributions of *Doña* Juana Rosario-Carrero to Aguada through a life devoted to the service and the

personal and intellectual formation of many citizens who have also contributed to the development of our beloved Puerto Rico.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The middle school located on Nativo Alers Avenue in the Municipality of Aguada is hereby named after the illustrious educator, Professor Juana Rosario-Carrero.

Section 2.- The Department of Education and the Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of Puerto Rico shall take the necessary steps for the full compliance of this legislation.

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. 189 (H.B. 2356) of the 4th Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to name the middle school located on Nativo Alers Avenue in the Municipality of Aguada after the illustrious educator, Professor Juana Rosario-Carrero,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 12th of January of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director