

(H.B. 2444)

(No. 262)

(Approved December 12, 2006)

## **AN ACT**

To direct the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission to name the recreational area of the Cerillos State Forest of the Municipality of Ponce after Luis A. “Wito” Morales.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

One of the persons who influenced the social, cultural and economic development of the town of Ponce the most has been Luis A. “Wito” Morales. Born on January 7, 1928 in Ponce, this illustrious Puerto Rican, an example of the essential values inherent in the daily lives of our society, distinguished himself during his fruitful life in the fields of sports, politics and communications.

Luis Morales-Crespo, conscious of the needs of his people and with the vision of the great leaders, has been a pioneer in the promotion of sports as a system for social development in the city of Ponce. Between the years 1947 and 1953, he distinguished himself as a professional baseball player for the Ponce Leones Team and subsequently became the official sportscaster of the Ponce Leones Team until the year 2003. He also created the “Corporación Deportistas Ponceños, Inc.,” an entity in charge of the Ponce Leones until the 1963-1964 season. At present is a member of the Ponce Sports Hall of Fame.

His love for the radio was born at very early age when he began to work as broadcaster for the WPAB radio station in Ponce and later for the WNEL

radio station in San Juan, where he worked for a short period of time. He returned to WPAB and worked there untiringly for 17 years. In 1960 he created the “Publicidad Wito Morales” advertising agency. He was manager of Channel 7 in Ponce and in 1967 he founded and established the WHOY radio station in Salinas. While manager of that station he decided to enter politics and was elected mayor of Ponce for the term between 1972 and 1976. In 1978 he was elected Senator-at-Large for the district of Ponce a seat he held until 1980. From that date on he was General Manager of WOLE TV Channel 12 Aguadilla-Mayagüez. His impact as a sports figure was such that he became the official sportscaster of the Ponce Leones Team as well as a member of Ponce Sports Hall of Fame.

His accomplishments as Mayor of Ponce are well known to all residents of Ponce. He began his term of office as First Executive in 1973, carrying out major works for the development of the infrastructure of the city of Ponce, most importantly the development of the New Town Market, the channeling of the Portugués and Bucaná rivers, the sewer system of the La Playa Sector and the Operations Center for Municipal Public Works at El Tuque, among other innumerable projects. A faithful defender of social justice, his achievements transcended as President of the Ponce Municipal Assembly between the years 1989 and 2005, an effort which reflected the integrity that has historically characterized that honorable institution, and reaffirmed his commitment to work tirelessly to fulfill the aspirations of his people.

Mr. Luis Antonio “Wito” Morales-Crespo has shown through his great dedication, irreproachable reputation and attainments of excellence as sportsman, communicator, politician, public servant and proud son of Ponce, to be deserving of the honor of having the recreational facilities of the

Recreational Field of the Cerrillos State Forest in Ponce, Puerto Rico named after him.

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

Section 1.-The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission is hereby directed to name the present Recreational Area of the Cerillos State Forest of the Municipality of Ponce after Luis Antonio “Wito” Morales-Crespo.

Section 2.-The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission of the shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act, without being subject to the provisions of Act No. 99 of July 22, 1961, as amended.

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. 262 (H.B. 2444) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to direct the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission to name the recreational area of the Cerillos State Forest of the Municipality of Ponce after Luis A. “Wito” Morales,

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 26<sup>th</sup> of February of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director