

(S.B. 1165)

**(No. 264)**

(Approved December 13, 2006)

## **AN ACT**

To name the Minillas Valle de San Germán bridge after Father Francisco Larrán and exempt said designation from the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended, known as the “Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Act.”

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

The People of Puerto Rico are honored by the presence and accomplishments of Father Francisco Larrán, a missionary who has devoted his life to serving the Lord and humanity. Father Francisco Larrán exemplifies the unswerving commitment to our people to convey a message of social justice. Throughout the years his determination to bring physical as well as spiritual comfort to all those in need has grown. All the best service, commitment and humility values are gathered in the person of this servant of the people. In a society in need of persons capable of bridging the communications gap, Father Larrán must be acknowledged as a source of inspiration for past, present and future generations.

Born in the town of San Román de los Caballeros in the province of León, Spain on May 20, 1926, Father Larrán was the third son of proud parents Aurelio Larrán and Inés Alvarez, who had a total of seven children. The parents of this lovely family of four boys and three girls were able to

imbue each of their hearts with the highest values of love for God and for their fellow men and women. At the age of thirteen Francisco Larrán entered the Augustine Seminary in the province of Castilla. It must be pointed out that he entered the seminary precisely in the year in which the Spanish Civil War came to an end. Subsequently he entered the Calahorra Seminary in Logroño, Spain where he studied Humanities for three years. At the age of sixteen he is sent, together with a group of fifteen young men to the Guénica Novitiate in the Basque country. After studying Philosophy and Theology, in 1950 he was ordained into the priesthood and then returned to his native town to hold his first mass. At the beginning of his pilgrimage he was sent to Puerto Rico, Cuba and Santo Domingo, after which he returned to Cuba and eventually to Puerto Rico where he has remained for 50 years spreading the gospel in the municipalities of Cabo Rojo and San Germán, where he has lived until the present.

Father Larrán is a special human being. God has blessed him with one of the most precious gifts, that of bringing comfort to the sick. Every day this servant of the Lord prays and is concerned with keeping informed about the health of those in need of his prayers, thus becoming the perfect means of communication between God and man in that time of grief.

Father Larrán is worthy of being emulated, his unswerving faith in the Almighty has made him undergo difficult experiences. Even though on several occasions death has come knocking at his door his spiritual strength has helped him to continue with his life and his vocation and to offer comforting words to the sick. The “Angel of the Sick” as this untiring Augustine priest is known, unceasingly follows his mission of spreading the word of God and being by the bedside of anyone who needs him, whether or not he knows the person. This servant of the Lord shall always be there

comforting and consoling not only the sick but also all their relatives. This Angel of Mercy has always been a man of religious temperament, of constant prayer, of moving humility and simplicity, of absolute selflessness and unconditional service.

It is imperative that all Puerto Ricans know of the trajectory of excellence of Father Larrán because this will allow us to be part of what a person is capable of when his attitudes are firm, his ideas clear and his life is all about proclaiming the love for God by devoting himself to the service of humanity.

For all of the above, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico believes that it is reasonable and meritorious to name the Minillas Valle de San Germán bridge after Father Francisco Larrán, in commemoration of his excellent accomplishments in the service of religion, to the lives he has touched in this Municipality, for present and future generations to remember his legacy and service to humanity.

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

Section 1.- To name the Minillas Valle de San Germán bridge after Father Francisco Larrán in commemoration of his excellent accomplishments in the service of religion, and so that present and future generations may remember his legacy to humanity and to social justice.

Section 2.-The Department of Public Works of the Municipality of San Germán shall post signs along the road described in the above Section according to the provisions of this Act. The Municipality of San Germán is hereby exempted from complying with the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended, known as the “Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico 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. 264 (S.B. 1165) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to name the Minillas Valle de San Germán bridge after Father Francisco Larrán and exempt said designation from the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended, known as the “Structures and Public Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Act,”

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 30<sup>th</sup> of March of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director