

(H. B. 2439)

(No. 298)

(Approved December 26, 2006)

## AN ACT

To direct the Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name the public highway currently known as the Río Hondo Connecting Expressway (PR-5), which traverses the Municipality of Bayamón, “Emilio E. Huyke-Colón Sports Avenue.”

### STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Puerto Rico has traditionally recognized its great men and women by naming public facilities after them. This is the intent of this measure—to recognize such a paramount personality in Puerto Rican sports such as *Don* Emilio E. Huyke-Colón.

Emilio E. Huyke-Colón was born in Humacao on February 28, 1912. He is the son of *Don* Juan B. Huyke-Bocillo and *Doña* Carmen Colón-Caballero.

He pursued elementary studies in Humacao. In 1929, he worked for the *El Tiempo* newspaper as a sportswriter. He also worked at various other newspapers, such as *El País* and *El Mundo*, where he took over the “Home Page” and collaborated in the sports section.

In 1936, he was the Secretary of the First Puerto Rican Olympics and in that same year he founded the *Club de Futuras Estrellas del Baloncesto* [lit.: Future Basketball Stars Club]. In 1938, he was the Secretary of the Basketball Commission for Central America and the Caribbean.

In 1937, *Don* Emilio founded the *Federación Insular de Baloncesto* [lit.: Insular Basketball Federation] and *Futuras Estrellas del Baloncesto*, which actions led to him being dubbed the Father of Puerto Rican Basketball. He was the president of this Federation during the years 1937-1942, 1945-1946, and 1981-1982. He also served as Executive Secretary of this federation from 1978 until his death.

In 1939, he held office as Executive Officer of the Parks and Public Recreation Commission. In 1940, he returned to the *El Mundo* newspaper, where he became the first editor.

He was the founding member of the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame. He was later recruited to hold office as Executive Secretary of the Professional Baseball League, where he worked his way up to Executive Vice-president. In 1956, he founded the Sportswriters Fraternity. In 1958, he was a member of the Constitutional Convention of the Olympics Committee of Puerto Rico. He was the Secretary General of the Olympics Committee of Puerto Rico from 1964 to 1972, and in 1966, he was the President of the Steering Committee of the X Central American and Caribbean Games, which were held in the Island.

He had many radio and television spots, from among which “Boxing from the Forum” deserves a special mention.

He was a very prolific writer and poet (one of his most famous poems is “*La Futura Estrella*” [lit.: “The Future Star”]). He also distinguished himself as a short story writer, and essayist, a novelist, and he wrote scripts for radio and television. He received numerous awards for his work in the field of sports and in the communications media. He was inducted into the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame as a sports patron and sportswriter in 1968.

It is therefore that this Legislature believes it meritorious to designate the Río Hondo Connecting Expressway (PR-5) in Bayamón with the name “Emilio E. Huyke-Colón Sports Avenue.”

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

Section 1.—The Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby directed to designate the public highway currently known as the Río Hondo Connecting Expressway (PR-5), which traverses the Municipality of Bayamón, with the name “Emilio E. Huyke-Colón Sports Avenue.”

Section 2.—The Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance of the provisions of this Act, without being subject to the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 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. 298 (H.B. 2439) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Legislature of Puerto Rico:

**AN ACT** to direct the Public Structure and Highway Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to name the public highway currently known as the Río Hondo Connecting Expressway (PR-5), which traverses the Municipality of Bayamón, “Emilio E. Huyke-Colón Sports Avenue,”

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 18<sup>th</sup> of June of 2007.

Francisco J. Domenech  
Director