

(S. B. 1186)

(No. 4-2015)

(Approved January 30, 2015)

AN ACT

To name the airport in the Municipality of Humacao after Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quiñones for his contributions and achievements in the development and modernization of Puerto Rico.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Humacao airport, located at PR-923 Road, Barrio Buena Vista, began operations approximately 50 years ago.

Airport operations have gradually grown to the point where an aviation school is now established therein. The airport is located in a 70 *cuerdas* lot a mile east of Humacao. It has a 2,458 feet long by 60 feet wide landing strip used mainly for private flights and minor cargo transport. It is also used for recreational flights using ultralight aircrafts and offers skydiving exhibitions. In 1991, the Ports Authority built a passenger terminal, repaved the landing strip, and improved the access road to the airport. Subsequently, in 2002, the 300 foot eastern expansion of the platform was completed. Since said airport does not have an official name, the people who use it refer to it as the Humacao Regional Airport. Therefore, we propose that the airport be named Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quiñones Airport in honor of a person who devoted most of his life to the development of Puerto Rico.

Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quiñones was born in Humacao in April 1931. He pursued his elementary and secondary education in his birth city. From 1948 to 1953, he attended the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Mayagüez, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. In 1955, he began pursuing a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, at Harvard University in

Cambridge, Massachusetts, and earned a PhD in Philosophy from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He studied music with master musicians Solier and Juan Peña Reyes (father of Lito Peña), but since sports were always his passion, he also played baseball for the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus, while he was an engineering student. He played catcher for the *Mulos del Valenciano* (Juncos), a team managed by Perucho Cepeda, with players such as Roberto Clemente in center field and Manolín Maldonado Denis as pitcher.

In 1953, he began working for the Department of Public Works in the Estimates and Costs Division. From 1958 to 1965, he worked at the Puerto Rico Planning Board. From 1965 to 1989, he was a professor at the Public Administration and Planning Program of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus, where he was also the Director of the Graduate Program in Planning and the Dean of Students.

Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quñones, also known as “Mereyo,” with his talent and verticality became a great urban benchmark, winning the respect of his colleagues, his disciples, and insightful people in the Island. He participated in devising the Land Use and Transportation Plan aimed at reorganizing the metropolitan area.

During the tenure of Rafael Hernández-Colón as governor, Ortiz-Quñones held the office of Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Public Works and began the Urban Train designs. Subsequently, he chaired the Puerto Rico Planning Board during the administration of Governor Sila María Calderón.

For all the foregoing, this Legislative Assembly deems it meritorious to name the Humacao airport after Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quñones, in recognition of this distinguished public servant who devoted a great part of his life to the modernization and development of Puerto Rico.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- The airport in the Municipality of Humacao is hereby named the “Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quñones Airport.”

“Section 2.- The Puerto Rico Ports Authority shall take the necessary measures to comply with the provisions of this Act. For purposes of this Act, the Puerto Rico Ports Authority is hereby exempt from complying with the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended, known as the “Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission 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. 4-2015 (S. B. 1186)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to name the airport in the Municipality of Humacao after Dr. Hermenegildo Ortiz-Quiñones for his contributions and achievements in the development and modernization of Puerto Rico.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 5th day of February, 2016.

Juan Luis Martínez Martínez
Director