

(H. B. 2245)

(No. 43-2015)

(Approved March 28, 2015)

AN ACT

To declare February 12 of each year as Catalino ‘Tite’ Curet-Alonso’s Birthday,” in order to recognize and celebrate his contribution to Puerto Rican music.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The world of the arts has numerous manifestations that seek to capture ideas, perceptions, and voices of each era. This can be achieved through painting, sculpture, literature, and music, each of which, within its own genre, represents the culture and beliefs of a people. Puerto Rico is known for the great contributions of its writers, painters, and musicians, since they have been able to capture the feelings of Puerto Rican society through time.

Music has been very influential in the Island. The roots of Puerto Rican musical history lie in the fusion of Taíno, African, and Spanish rhythms that later emerged as *danza*, *bomba*, *plena*, and more recently, *trova* and *salsa*.

The term *salsa* is used to describe a musical genre that emerged as a combination of several Caribbean rhythms during the 1940s, but reached the height of its popularity in the 1970s. This genre includes great performers who are considered the fathers of different rhythms. Among them is Catalino “Tite” Curet-Alonso, who was born in the Hoyo Inglés Ward of the Municipality of Guayama on February 12, 1926. His father was a Spanish teacher and orchestra musician and his mother was a seamstress. His process for writing lyrics was influenced by his father, but he studied music theory and fundamentals under Professor Jorge Rubián.

Tite began to write music at the onset of the salsa movement in New York City in the late 1960s. He did write for artists in other genres, but it was in salsa that he found a greater audience. His hits, such as *Anacaona*, *Mi triste problema*, *Pa' que afinquen*, and *Si por mi llueve*, among others, crowned the careers of renowned singers such as Ray Barretto, Ismael Rivera, Rubén Blades, Héctor Lavoe, and many others.

For his contributions to this genre and to Puerto Rican culture, he is considered one of the Island's – and Greater Latin America's – most prominent composers of the 20th century. He is credited with writing about two thousand pieces of music, some of which have topped both the airplay and sales charts. Thus, Tite Curet left his mark in Puerto Rico's musical history. *Don Catalino* “Tite” Curet-Alonso died in 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland, leaving behind a musical legacy that has enriched the artistic heritage of the people of Puerto Rico.

For all the achievements described herein, this Legislative Assembly deems it appropriate to recognize *Don Catalino* ‘Tite’ Curet-Alonso and, consequently, make the commemoration of his birthday an event worth remembering. He should be an inspiration to all Puerto Ricans, not only for his cultural contributions, but also as an example of the tenacity of Puerto Rican people.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1. – February 12 of each year is hereby declared as the “Catalino ‘Tite’ Curet-Alonso’s Birthday.”

Section 2. – The Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, at least ten (10) days in advance and through a proclamation to such effect, shall encourage Puerto Ricans to remember and pay homage to *Don Catalino* “Tite” Curet-Alonso’s memory on February 12 of each year.

Section 3. – The Department of Education, the Municipal Government of Guayama, and the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture shall adopt the necessary measures to achieve the purposes of this Act by organizing and holding activities in remembrance of this illustrious Puerto Rican. Likewise, they shall encourage the involvement of private entities in activities that help raise awareness of the life and works of *Don Catalino* “Tite” Curet-Alonso.

Section 4. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 43-2015 (H. B. 2245)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to declare February 12 of each year as Catalino 'Tite' Curet-Alonso's Birthday," in order to recognize and celebrate his contribution to Puerto Rican music.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 23rd day of January, 2018.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez
Acting Director