

(H. B. 1552)

(No. 75-2015)

(Approved June 1, 2015)

AN ACT

To name Road PR-490, which runs from the Municipality of Arecibo to the Municipality of Hatillo, after Juan Antonio “Nito” Méndez.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Juan Antonio Méndez-Lorenzo, better known as Nito Méndez, was born on August 29, 1941, in the Cuchillas Ward of Moca. His parents were Mr. Francisco Méndez and Ms. Felícita Lorenzo. He married Ms. Luz Celenia Pérez, with whom he had four children: Luz Maraira, Silkia, Alba, and Juan Antonio. He discovered his musical calling at the age of seventeen (17).

Nito Méndez delighted the people of Puerto Rico with his songs for forty (40) years. He is also considered one of the greatest musical performers of the 1950s and 1960s. He stood out for integrating the life of the Puerto Rican *jíbaro* into his music in a playful and humorous way. His compositions include: “Tú eres la causante de las penas mías,” “Que le quedaba un Chin,” “A cada santo una vela,” “Si dejo de amarte,” “No puedo olvidarte,” “Tu solita eres,” “Loco de amor,” “Pervertida,” “Dentro de un pajar,” “No destruyas mi hogar,” “Boricuas ausentes,” “Sólo por tu amor,” “Jamás,” “El chillo por la ventana,” and “Máscaras de Hatillo,” among others. His style consisted mostly of *trullas mayagüezanas*, and later *el güiro* became a hit. People in Puerto Rico would always say that Christmas was not Christmas without a Nito Méndez song.

The music of Nito Méndez, as he was affectionately called, is linked closely to the Hatillo Mask Festival. His folkloric and cultural style, combined with the playful nature of his songs and his love for the town of Hatillo, turned him into said municipality's favorite adoptive son.

Don Juan Antonio "Nito" Méndez-Lorenzo died of a brain tumor on February 4, 2011, at the age of 69. The Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico hereby recognizes Nito Méndez' great works and contribution to our culture and the development of Hatillo folklore by naming Road PR-490, which runs from the Municipality of Arecibo to the Municipality of Hatillo, after Juan Antonio "Nito" Méndez.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1. – Road PR-490, which runs from the Municipality of Arecibo to the Municipality of Hatillo, is hereby named after Juan Antonio "Nito" Méndez.

Section 2. – The Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico shall take the necessary measures to faithfully comply with the provisions of this Act without being subject to the provisions of Act No. 99 of June 22, 1961, as amended, known as the "Public Structures and 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. 75-2015 (H. B. 1552)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to name Road PR-490, which runs from the Municipality of Arecibo to the Municipality of Hatillo, after Juan Antonio "Nito" Méndez.

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