

(H. B. 1393)

(No. 82-2015)

(Approved June 8, 2015)

## **AN ACT**

To designate the New Middle School of the Municipality of Ceiba as “Irma Pedraza-Ruiz Middle School”; and for other related purposes.

### **STATEMENT OF MOTIVES**

Irma Pedraza-Ruiz was born in the Municipality of Ceiba on July 4, 1936, to Ángel Pedraza-Danois and Bienvenida Ruiz. Mrs. Pedraza grew up in an era of great economic, political, and social trials. However, she overcame many obstacles and was able to attend elementary and middle school in Ceiba’s Adolfo Veve-Ferreau School. She graduated from Fajardo High School, where she was also an accomplished athlete in several sports. Subsequently, she obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Education from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, which allowed her to work as a teacher, first in Humacao and later in her hometown of Ceiba.

She was a great public servant, which is why her beliefs never kept her from serving her students and constituents. She was there for everyone, regardless of ideology, beliefs, or religion. Her tenacity helped her successfully take on new challenges, including her marriage to *Don* Pedro Ortiz with whom she had three children. Mrs. Pedraza, as she was affectionately called, saw public service as her calling, and the devotion she showed to her family and her people make it hard to separate the person from the deeds. Judging from her contributions to education, both in the Island and in her dear town of Ceiba, she embodies what a true woman, teacher, and public servant should be.

Mrs. Pedraza devoted herself to education for thirty years. She proudly retired, but with the desire to continue serving from another standpoint. That is when she decided to become fully involved in the politics of the Island and her hometown. Her role model was her uncle, Bernardino Pedraza, who had been mayor of Ceiba in the 1940s. Thus arose her passion for politics as an instrument to achieve the social justice and equality she fervently stood up for as a Christian woman. In 1992, she became the first woman elected as mayor of Ceiba. During her term in office, she strived to improve the quality of life of all Ceiba residents, whom she served regardless of race, color, faith, economic status, or political affiliation.

After her years as mayor, she decided to retire and resume her mission as a teacher. She became a math consultant at the regional level. Sadly, she passed away on April 27, 2010, after a long battle with heart disease. Our beloved Irma Pedraza de Ortiz has and will continue to set an example, through her personal and professional life, for those generations on which she had a direct or indirect impact in her roles as daughter, mother, teacher, and mayor.

Traits such as her cheerfulness, unbreakable spirit, and wise stoicism framed her enterprising and fruitful life. Her exceptional career in public service has left a void that will be hard to fill.

For these reasons, this Legislative Assembly deems it meritorious to duly recognize the late Mrs. Pedraza by naming the New Middle School of the Municipality of Ceiba after her. In this manner, future generations will learn about Irma Pedraza's legacy and work in our beloved town of Ceiba.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1. – The New Middle School of the Municipality of Ceiba is hereby designated as “Irma Pedraza-Ruiz Middle School.”

Section 2. – The Department of Education is hereby directed to immediately change the name of the New Middle School in Ceiba to “Irma Pedraza-Ruiz Middle School,” and to use such name in all related documents of the Department.

Section 3. – 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.

Section 4. – A copy of this Act shall be sent to the Department of Education and to the Public Structures and Highways Naming Commission of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for their information.

Section 5. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 82-2015 (H. B. 1393)** of the **5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session** of the **17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

**AN ACT** to designate the New Middle School of the Municipality of Ceiba as “Irma Pedraza-Ruiz Middle School”; and for other related purposes.

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

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2018.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez  
Acting Director