

(H.B. 1395)

(No. 132)

(Approved July 17, 1998)

AN ACT

To declare the 12th day of September of each year as “Manuel Corchado y Juarbe Birthday” and the corresponding week of September 12 of each year as the “Manuel Corchado y Juarbe Week”.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Manuel Corchado y Juarbe was born on September 12, 1840 in Isabela, Puerto Rico. His parents were Juan Eugenio Corchado and Juana Eugenia Juarbe. He attended grade school in Isabela, the “Northeast Garden (Jardín del Noroeste)”; he then traveled to Barcelona where he finished his high school studies and subsequently, law school.

In Barcelona, he was the founder of “Las Antillas” review in 1866, a noteworthy Spanish-American publication, in which interesting studies on Puerto Rican issues were published. While in Barcelona, he was an advocate for the establishment of a university on the Island, he fought against administrative centralization and highhandedness of Spanish rulers.

He was a prominent columnist in the “Agente de Puerto Rico” newspaper. His greatest contributions to Puerto Rican culture was achieved as a writer. As a student, he became known through a literary contest organized by the “Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País”, in San Juan in

the year of 1892. He unanimously won the first prize with his work “Ode to Campeche”.

His poems were seen in the Puerto Rico and Barcelona press, in different almanacs, “aguinaldos” and other anthologies that were published in the Island. Some of his most outstanding published works are “Biografía de Lincoln” (A Biography of Lincoln), “Historia de Ultratumba” (Story of the Beyond), “Oda a Campeche” (Ode to Campeche) and “Barricadas” (Barricades).

He also excelled as a speaker and lecturer in the “Ateneo Catalán” in Barcelona, where he gave speeches on the death penalty, and at the “Sociedad Económica Matritense de Amigos del País” where he lectured on presumption of evidence.

In 1871, he was elected Delegate to the Spanish courts for the Mayagüez District, where he was known for his brilliant discourse, defending the abolition of slavery and the application of the Spanish Constitution to Puerto Rico.

On November 30, 1884, our Island mourned the death of our Orator, who at that moment pronounced these memorable words: “Tell them in my name (he was addressing his wife), that I have accomplished my self imposed mission of sacrificing my life for my country”.

In 1935, a group by the name of “Campaña Pro Manuel Corchado y Juarbe” was created for the purpose of transferring his remains from Madrid to the place of his birth, to build a monument in his honor, and promote his works.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico wishes to express special gratitude on behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, and give recognition to don Manuel Corchado y Juarbe as a great Orator in the history of our Island and bastion

of our Puerto Rican culture through the celebration of a week in his honor and his birthday.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- September 12 of each year is hereby declared as the “Manuel Corchado y Juarbe Birthday” and the week corresponding to that date as the “Manuel Corchado y Juarbe Week”.

Section 2.- The Secretary of the Department of Education is hereby authorized to promote the cooperation of the different departments, Agencies and Instrumentalities of the Government for the celebration of said memorable date.

Section 3.- A copy of this Act shall be sent to the information media for its publication and diffusion.

Section 4.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

May 3, 2000

Luis G. Hidalgo, Director of the Office of Legislative Services of the Legislature of Puerto Rico, hereby certifies to the Secretary of State that he has duly compared the English and Spanish texts of Act No. 132 (H.B. 1395) of the 3rd Session of the 13th Legislature of Puerto Rico, entitled:

AN ACT to declare the 12th day of September of each year as “Manuel Corchado y Juarbe Birthday” and the corresponding week of September 12 of each year as the “Manuel Corchado y Juarbe Week”,

and finds the same are complete, true and correct versions of each other.

Luis G. Hidalgo