

**I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
138-36 (LS)	Telena Cruz Nelson	Relative to recognizing the late Esther Bejarano for her outstanding dedication and service to the International Auschwitz Committee, and commemorating her for her dedication to music and her unrelenting devotion to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing, on behalf of the people of Guam.	8/4/21 8:00 a.m.	08/11/21	8/4/21					

Resolution No. 138-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson	
V. Anthony Ada	Cynthia E. Radgell
Frank Blas Jr.	Joe S. San Agustin
Joanne Brown	Amanda L. Shelton
Christopher M. Ductas	Telo T. Taitague
James C. Moylan	Jose "Pejo" Terlaje
Tina Rose Muña Barnes	Therese M. Terlaje
Sabina Flores Perez	Mary Camacho Torres



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A. [Signature]  
8/11/21

**Relative to recognizing the late Esther Bejarano for her outstanding dedication and service to the International Auschwitz Committee, and commemorating her for her dedication to music and her unrelenting devotion to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing, on behalf of the people of Guam.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:**

**WHEREAS**, the late Esther Bejarano (formerly Esther Loewy) was born on December 15, 1924, in Saarlouis, Germany; her parents are Rudolf Loewy, Chief Cantor of the Jewish community and Margarete (Heymann), and she was the youngest of five (5) siblings; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1925, Esther and her family settled in Saarbrücken in the Saar region, which was then separated from Germany; and after the national socialists came to power in 1933 and after the Saar vote in 1935, the family decided to relocate to Ulm, Germany in 1936; and

**WHEREAS**, Esther's parents and her sister Ruth eventually were deported and killed during the Nazi regime, where she had to perform forced labor before being sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943; and

**WHEREAS**, having heard that the Nazi SS Guards were looking for an accordion player to join the camp's orchestra, Esther volunteered despite not knowing how to play the instrument, playing the accordion at the concentration camps whenever prisoners were marched off to work or when new trains with Jews from across Europe arrived; and

**WHEREAS**, because her grandmother had been a Christian, Esther was later transferred to the Ravensbrück concentration camp for women and survived a death march at the end of the war; and

**WHEREAS**, in the last days of the war, Esther escaped with six (6) other women to a forest in Lübz, where she was liberated by the Red Army and the U.S. Army on May 3, 1945; and

**WHEREAS**, Esther recalled her rescue by the U.S. troops who gave her an accordion, which she played the day American soldiers and concentration camp survivors danced and celebrated the Allied victory over the Nazis; and

**WHEREAS**, after the war ended, Esther learned of the death of her parents and sister and she emigrated to Israel and married Nissim Bejarano, and they became the proud parents of Edna and Joram; and

**WHEREAS**, returning to Germany in the 1970s, Esther again encountered open anti-Semitism and she decided to become politically active and co-founded the Auschwitz Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the history of the International Auschwitz Committee, it was founded by survivors of the concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1952 with the following aims: to let the world know what happened in the concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; to look after the interest of the survivors; and to encourage, advocate and vigorously support the contacts between the National Auschwitz Committees; and

**WHEREAS**, Esther teamed up with her children to play Yiddish melodies and Jewish powerful resistance songs in a Hamburg-based band named "Coincidences"; and

**WHEREAS**, Ester received numerous awards, which included the Herbert Wehner Medal in 2010; Germany's Great Federal Cross of Merit in 2012; Ethecon's Blue Planet Award in 2013; the Cologne Giesberts-Lewin Prize in 2014; the Preis für Solidarität und Menschenwürde (prize for solidarity and human dignity) in 2016; and the Hermann Maas Prize in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, the Gemeinschaftsschule School in Wiesloch in Baden-Württemberg, Germany was named after her; and

**WHEREAS**, Esther Bejarano was one of the last survivors of the orchestra that was formed in the Auschwitz death camp, and she remained strongly dedicated and committed to educating and advocating against xenophobia; and she fought against racism and anti-Semitism until the end of her extraordinary life; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the late Esther Bejarano for her outstanding dedication and service to the International Auschwitz Committee, and commemorate her for her dedication to music and her unrelenting devotion to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism; and express condolences to her family on her passing, on behalf of the people of Guam; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the International Auschwitz Committee; to Edna Bejarano and Joram Bejarano and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hagan Guahan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

THERESE M. TERLAJE  
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON  
Legislative Secretary






# THE OFFICE OF SENATOR TELENA CRUZ NELSON

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN | 36th GUAM LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION,  
SELF DETERMINATION  
AND HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION,  
INFRASTRUCTURE,  
BORDER SAFETY,  
FEDERAL AND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
AND  
MARITIME  
TRANSPORTATION

August 10, 2021

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media  
From: Senator Telena Cruz Nelson   
Subject: **Res. No. 138-36 (LS) Presentation Notice**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai!* Please be advised of **Resolution No. 138-36 (LS)** - Telena Cruz Nelson, Relative to recognizing the late Esther Bejarano for her outstanding dedication and service to the International Auschwitz Committee, and commemorating her for her dedication to music and her unrelenting devotion to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing, on behalf of the people of Guam." will be mailed off-island to the Bejarano family on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021**.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

***I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LEHISLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2021 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 138-36 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson  
V. Anthony Ada  
Frank Blas Jr.  
Joanne Brown  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
James C. Moylan  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Clynton E. Ridgell  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Telo T. Taitague  
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Mary Camacho Torres

**Relative to recognizing the late Esther Bejarano for her outstanding dedication and service to the International Auschwitz Committee, and commemorating her for her dedication to music and her unrelenting devotion to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing, on behalf of the people of Guam.**

1           **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LEHISLATURAN***  
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**  
3           **WHEREAS**, the late Esther Bejarano (formerly Esther Loewy) was born on  
4 December 15, 1924, in Saarlouis, Germany; her parents are Rudolf Loewy, Chief

1 Cantor of the Jewish community and Margarete (Heymann), and she was the youngest  
2 of five (5) siblings; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1925, Esther and her family settled in Saarbrücken in the Saar  
4 region, which was then separated from Germany; and after the national socialists came  
5 to power in 1933 and after the Saar vote in 1935, the family decided to relocate to Ulm,  
6 Germany in 1936; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Esther's parents and her sister Ruth eventually were deported and  
8 killed during the Nazi regime, where she had to perform forced labor before being sent  
9 to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1943; and

10 **WHEREAS**, having heard that the Nazi SS Guards were looking for an  
11 accordion player to join the camp's orchestra, Esther volunteered despite not knowing  
12 how to play the instrument, playing the accordion at the concentration camps whenever  
13 prisoners were marched off to work or when new trains with Jews from across Europe  
14 arrived; and

15 **WHEREAS**, because her grandmother had been a Christian, Esther was later  
16 transferred to the Ravensbrück concentration camp for women and survived a death  
17 march at the end of the war; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in the last days of the war, Esther escaped with six (6) other women  
19 to a forest in Lübz, where she was liberated by the Red Army and the U.S. Army on  
20 May 3, 1945; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Esther recalled her rescue by the U.S. troops who gave her an  
22 accordion, which she played the day American soldiers and concentration camp  
23 survivors danced and celebrated the Allied victory over the Nazis; and

24 **WHEREAS**, after the war ended, Esther learned of the death of her parents and  
25 sister and she emigrated to Israel and married Nissim Bejarano, and they became the  
26 proud parents of Edna and Joram; and

1           **WHEREAS**, returning to Germany in the 1970s, Esther again encountered open  
2 anti-Semitism and she decided to become politically active and co-founded the  
3 Auschwitz Committee; and

4           **WHEREAS**, according to the history of the International Auschwitz Committee,  
5 it was founded by survivors of the concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-  
6 Birkenau in 1952 with the following aims: to let the world know what happened in the  
7 concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau; to look after the interest of  
8 the survivors; and to encourage, advocate and vigorously support the contacts between  
9 the National Auschwitz Committees; and

10           **WHEREAS**, Esther teamed up with her children to play Yiddish melodies and  
11 Jewish powerful resistance songs in a Hamburg-based band named “Coincidences”;  
12 and

13           **WHEREAS**, Ester received numerous awards, which included the Herbert  
14 Wehner Medal in 2010; Germany’s Great Federal Cross of Merit in 2012; Ethecon’s  
15 Blue Planet Award in 2013; the Cologne Giesberts-Lewin Prize in 2014; the Preis für  
16 Solidarität und Menschenwürde (prize for solidarity and human dignity) in 2016; and  
17 the Hermann Maas Prize in 2020; and

18           **WHEREAS**, in 2020, the Gemeinschaftsschule School in Wiesloch in Baden-  
19 Württemberg, Germany was named after her; and

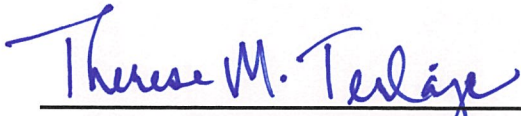
20           **WHEREAS**, Esther Bejarano was one of the last survivors of the orchestra that  
21 was formed in the Auschwitz death camp, and she remained strongly dedicated and  
22 committed to educating and advocating against xenophobia; and she fought against  
23 racism and anti-Semitism until the end of her extraordinary life; now therefore, be it

24           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
25 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the late Esther Bejarano for her outstanding  
26 dedication and service to the International Auschwitz Committee, and commemorate

1 her for her dedication to music and her unrelenting devotion to the fight against racism  
2 and anti-Semitism; and express condolences to her family on her passing, on behalf of  
3 the people of Guam; and be it further

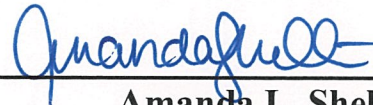
4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
5 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the  
6 International Auschwitz Committee; to Edna Bejarano and Joram Bejarano; and to the  
7 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2021.**



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**Therese M. Terlaje**  
Speaker



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**Amanda L. Shelton**  
Legislative Secretary