



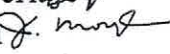





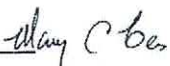


**I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	WORKING	Clerk	DANNY REVIEW	FSR
209-36 (COR)	Telena Cruz Nelson Tina Rose Muña Barnes Christopher M. Dueñas Jose "Pedro" Terlaje James C. Moylan Clynton E. Ridgell Amanda L. Shelton Sabina Flores Perez Joanne Brown V. Anthony Ada Mary Camacho Torres	Relative to expressing the utmost support of <i>I Liheslaturan Guåhan</i> for the passage of H.R. 165, the "Improving Access to Homes for Heroes Act of 2021," which seeks to require the inclusion of veterans in housing planning and an annual report on housing assistance to veterans and for other purposes; and further requesting to advocate for parity and inclusion of veterans residing on Guam and in all United States territories.	11/9/21 1:54 p.m.					

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

**Resolution No. 209-36 (COR)**

Telena Cruz Nelson   
Tina Rose Muña Barnes   
Christopher Dueñas   
Jose "Pedro" Terlate   
James Moylan   
Clynton Ridgell   
Amanda Shelton   
Sabina Perez   
Joanne Brown   
V. Anthony Ada   
Mary Camacho Torres 

Introduced by:

Relative to expressing the utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 165, the "Improving Access to Homes for Heroes Act of 2021," which seeks to require the inclusion of veterans in housing planning and an annual report on housing assistance to veterans and for other purposes; and further requesting to advocate for parity and inclusion of veterans residing on Guam and in all United States territories.

- 1        **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***  
2        ***MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:**  
3        **WHEREAS, H.R. 165, known as the "Improving Access to Homes for Heroes**  
4        **Act of 2021," as introduced in the United States House of Representatives on January**

1 4, 2021 by Texas Representative Congressman Al Green; and referred to the House  
2 Committee on Financial Services; and

3 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 165, requires housing agencies to consider the housing needs  
4 of veterans when creating their annual plans and housing strategies, the latter in  
5 consultation with agencies that serve veterans; and in similarity, the Department of  
6 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) must revise to require jurisdictions that  
7 receive funding from HUD to include information relating to veterans in their  
8 consolidated plans; and must also conduct an assessment of the housing needs of very  
9 low-income veteran families and report annually on its activities relating to veterans;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, since 1987, the Homeless Programs Office within the Veterans  
12 Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs have contributed to  
13 different program and services to addressing homelessness of Veterans and their  
14 families by using evidence-based, innovative practices and partnerships that will  
15 achieve an outcome that is equitable and inclusive to empower Veterans and in which  
16 enables their independence; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Homeless Programs  
18 Office are committed to ending homelessness among Veterans and their families in  
19 obtaining permanent and sustainable housing with access to high-quality care and  
20 supportive services and HPO’s best essential practices are focused on the following:  
21 conducting coordinated outreach to proactively seek out Veterans in need of assistance;  
22 connecting homeless and at-risk Veterans with housing solutions, health care,  
23 community employment services and other required supports; collaborating with  
24 federal, state and local agencies; employers; housing providers; faith-based and  
25 community non-profits; and others to expand employment and affordable housing  
26 options for Veterans exiting homelessness; and

27 **WHEREAS**, U.S.V.A. Homeless Programs Office’s Housing Solutions and  
28 Supportive Services helps to put Veterans and their families on the path to permanent  
29 housing and decreases the risk of housing instability; and through several collaborative

1 efforts. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive  
2 Housing (HUD-VASH), established in 1992, which they provide eligible qualifying  
3 homeless Veterans with a housing choice rental voucher and through available  
4 collaborative programs, the Veterans Affairs Office also provides case management and  
5 supportive services such as healthcare, mental health treatment, and substance use  
6 counseling to help aid in their recovery process and their ability to maintain housing in  
7 the community; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA  
9 Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program enroll the largest number and largest  
10 percentage of veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness.  
11 HUD-VASH rental assistance vouchers are based on current geographic needs and the  
12 public housing agency (PHA) performance; and since 2017, the new allocation process  
13 for awarding HUD-VASH rental assistance vouchers allow PHAs to self-identify their  
14 interest in the program; and there is at least one (1) PHA currently administering HUD-  
15 VASH in each of the fifty (50) states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam;  
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
18 publishes an annual HUD-VASH Registration of Interest containing detailed  
19 instructions on the process of receiving a portion of rental assistance vouchers. All  
20 parties interested in HUD-VASH program must have the support of a partnering VA  
21 facility and meet the requirements to be eligible for an award; and once registration  
22 period ends, HUD and VA use a formulation to determine eligibility and invite PHAs  
23 to apply for specific number of HUD-VASH rental assistance vouchers; and

24 **WHEREAS**, at the end of Fiscal Year 2021, over 105,000 subsidized housing  
25 vouchers were allocated to HUD-VASH with more than 80,000 formerly homeless  
26 veterans living in their own permanent housing; and between 2008 through 2019,  
27 Guam’s PHA, Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority (GHURA), has issued  
28 over sixty (60) rental assistance vouchers to local veterans residing on Guam; and in

1 July 2021, HUD announced the availability of \$49 Million Dollars (\$49,000,000) in  
2 HUD-VASH funding that will support approximately 6,000 new housing vouchers; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) submitted  
4 to U.S. Congress, reported that on a single night in January 2020, 37,252 veterans were  
5 experiencing homelessness in the United States, nearly all veterans were experiencing  
6 homelessness as individuals; and for the past three (3) years, the number of veterans  
7 experiencing homelessness increased by less than one percent (1%) (167 more people),  
8 however, in 2020, 36,115 fewer veterans were experiencing homelessness than in 2009,  
9 a decline of nearly 50 percent (50%) when these data were first reported; and

10 **WHEREAS**, of the total 37,252 homeless veterans; 1.0% (370 veterans) are  
11 those of Pacific Islanders, 1.2% (450 veterans) are Asian, 2.9% (1,082 veterans) are of  
12 Native American, 32.7% (12,186 veterans) are Black or African American, 56.8%  
13 (21,160 veterans) are White, and 5.4% (2,004 veterans) are of multiple races; and

14 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to seek support for our  
15 local Veterans and in all U.S. territories, by requesting the advocacy of the United States  
16 Congress to include Guam Veterans and in all United States territories, relative to the  
17 housing assistance and planning of veterans in H.R. 165; and with the continued support  
18 of local and state Veterans Affairs Offices in partnerships with PHAs can enable  
19 homeless veterans and their families to access affordable housing with an array of  
20 supportive services; and

21 **WHEREAS**, our island has its fair share of homelessness, while more have  
22 become so under various unfortunate circumstances. However, there are some homeless  
23 who are heroes. Although Veteran homelessness should not be an issue not enough has  
24 been done to help the veterans who have sacrificed their lives for our nation and our  
25 island of Guam. While the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs offers services and  
26 programs to prevent stateside homeless Veterans, our local Veterans and their families  
27 should receive the same necessary services and programs to ensure that homelessness  
28 is a rare, shortened and one-time experience; now therefore be it

1           **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*  
2 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, expresses the  
3 utmost support of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 165, the “Improving  
4 Access to Homes for Heroes Act of 2021,” which seeks to require the inclusion of  
5 veterans in housing planning and an annual report on housing assistance to veterans and  
6 for other purposes; and to further request to advocate for parity and inclusion of veterans  
7 residing on Guam and in all United States territories; and be it further

8           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
9 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
10 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the  
11 United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United  
12 States of America; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House  
13 of Representatives; to the Honorable Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam  
14 Delegate; to the Honorable Congressman Al Green, Texas Delegate; Denis Richard  
15 McDonough, U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Monica Diaz, Executive Director of  
16 Veterans Health Administration – Homeless Programs Office; P. Tim Aguon, SMSgt,  
17 USAF (ret), Director of Guam Veterans Affairs Office; Aja Cruz Ramos, President of  
18 Operations of WestCare Pacific Islands; Christina Cruz, Lead Veterans Advocate,  
19 Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) of WestCare Pacific Islands; and to  
20 the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF  
I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE       DAY OF  
NOVEMBER 2021.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**CLYNTON E. RIDGELL**  
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
**Legislative Secretary**