

**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 AUTHOR REPORT FILED	NOTES
222-36 (L.S)	Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to recognizing and congratulating Ms. Antonette Lisa Vegafria on the occasion of her retirement from Joint Region Marianas, and commending her for forty-one (41) years of government service.	12/10/21 10:48 a.m.							

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

Resolution No. 222 -36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje ^{TMT}

Relative to recognizing and congratulating Ms. Antonette Lisa Vegafria on the occasion of her retirement from Joint Region Marianas, and commending her for forty-one (41) years of government service.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, Antonette Lisa Vegafria, fondly known as “Ms. Toni,” was born
4 on November 16, 1962 and is originally from Inalåhan, but currently resides in the
5 beautiful village of Yoña. Ms. Toni is the 6th out of 13 children born to the late Antonio
6 Caputli and the late Maria Chargualaf Vegafria. Ms. Toni’s siblings are: Eugene “Jr”
7 Vegafria, Barbara Navarrete, Anthony Vegafria, the late John Alan Vegafria, the late
8 Rudy Vegafria, the late Evelyn Vegafria, Eleanor Vegafria, Geralyn Leon Guerrero,
9 Edith Vegafria, Denny Vegafria, Earl Vegafria and Sheila Castro; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Toni has four (4) children named Tonia Marie (38), Timothy
11 Daniel (37), DeAnna Nicole (34), and Mahana Barbara-Jo (14); and five (5)
12 grandchildren named Tyrell, Callie Marie, Damian J'Anthony, Catalena Jae, and Cierra
13 Tasi; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in May 1980, Ms. Toni graduated from George Washington Senior
15 High School in Mangilao, and upon graduation began her federal government career

1 under the “Summer Aid and Stay-in School” program, while attending the University
2 of Guam full-time; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in January 1982, Ms. Toni converted to full-time work as a Data
4 Transcriber, GS-1 at the Defense Property Disposal Office. In December 1983, she
5 decided to concentrate on her career and family at the advice of a wise professor who
6 said, “It is never too late to receive a college degree,” and worked up the ranks to
7 become a Property Disposal Clerk; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in July 1989, Ms. Toni transferred to the Naval Legal Service
9 Office, (NLSO) Guam, as a Claims Clerk and then received a promotion to Legal
10 Technician. She worked for three (3) Navy Judge Advocate General (JAG) attorneys
11 concentrating in family law and military justice. She was the liaison for military
12 members and their families for issues with local authorities, the Superior Court of
13 Guam, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. As the resident expert of the
14 Navy’s Tax Center, she worked closely with the Department of Revenue and Taxation
15 office to ensure every tax dollar earned by the military and DoD personnel stayed in
16 Guam. Ms. Toni also serves as a Public Notary for Guam. In 1994, Ms. Toni left Guam
17 and briefly worked with the Army JAG Corps, in Fort Lewis, Washington; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in January 1995, Ms. Toni came back to Guam and went back to
19 work at the NLSO as a Legal Assistant. During her tenure there, she underwent three
20 office reorganizations. As the only civilian staff, Ms. Toni was the corporate knowledge
21 and mainstay of the NLSO, mentoring hundreds of new JAG attorneys and legal-men,
22 some serving their first tour in the Navy. Her charisma and love of her island touched
23 those that served side-by-side with her because of her warm and hospitable personality;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, in May 2008, she returned to school to earn an Associates of
26 Science Degree in Supervision and Management from the Guam Community College
27 and graduated with honors. She was also inducted to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor
28 Society. In December 2010, she received her Paralegal Certification from the Graduate

1 School USA and continued her legal education courses with the Naval Justice School
2 located in Newport, Rhode Island; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in April 2011, Ms. Toni joined the Office of General Counsel
4 (OGC) at Joint Region Marianas (JRM) as a Paralegal Specialist. Her wealth of
5 knowledge of both federal and local laws earned her trust and confidence by those she
6 came in contact with, especially many of her peers and colleagues. She was instrumental
7 in several of the joint policies and guiding principles between the Government of Guam
8 and DoD. She launched and managed the office ethics program for filers to file their
9 Confidential Financial Disclosure report online using an approved DoD program. She
10 managed the department's office and budget to effectively and efficiently operate
11 smoothly. She successfully organized and coordinated several Guam Legal
12 Symposiums that were well attended by local and federal judges, justices; Navy and Air
13 Force military and civilian attorneys; and federal law enforcement personnel; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Toni continues to serve her island with pride by always
15 stepping up to volunteer and give of her time and talent in the JRM MWR and Diversity
16 and Inclusion committees; in the OGC Support Staff committee planning training
17 agendas for the Annual Support Staff Symposium which OGC Paralegals attend; as a
18 contributor to the OGC quarterly edition of the *Binnacle*; and a member of the OGC
19 *StratCom* committee. Ms. Toni has also appeared in several episodes of JRM's *What's*
20 *Cook'in* TV show where she would co-host in showcasing some of Guam's favorite
21 local dishes that is aired on the Guam military channel; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in addition to these community services, Ms. Toni also volunteers
23 in the Adopt-a-School campaign, Annual Guam Coastal Clean-up, Career Day, and is
24 a member of the Parent Teacher Association at the public and private schools where her
25 children attend, including: Dominican Child Development Center, Ordot; Truman
26 Elementary School, Sañta Rita; JP Torres Elementary School, Sañta Rita; Marcial
27 Sablan Elementary School, Hågat; Mount Carmel Catholic School, Hågat, MU Lujan
28 Elementary School, Yoña; St. Francis Catholic School, Yoña; and Notre Dame High
29 School, Talo'fo'fo; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Toni is also known for her positive attitude in building
2 partnership between parents and teachers so that our children can succeed in life. Her
3 dedication and willingness to volunteer her time and talent to the schools made her a
4 recipient of numerous awards and recognition. More significantly, her “can do” attitude
5 made her a two time-recipient of the Department of the Navy Meritorious Civilian
6 Service Award in 2007 and 2011, which is the third highest award given to employees
7 who present meritorious service or contribution resulting in high value of benefit to the
8 Navy. Ms. Toni has also received numerous Civilian of the Quarter and Civilian of the
9 Year awards throughout her career; now therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
11 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and congratulate Ms. Antonette Lisa Vegafria
12 on the occasion of her retirement from Joint Region Marianas, and commend her for
13 forty-one (41) years of government services; and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
15 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Antonette
16 Lisa Vegafria; Randel L. Sablan, Political-Military and Region Affairs Advisor on
17 behalf of Joint Region Marianas; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
18 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

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

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary