

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

| Resolution No. | Sponsor   | Title  | Date Intro           | Date of Presentation  | Date Adopted | Date Referred | Referred to | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED | NOTES |
|----------------|---|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| 151-37 (LS)    | Therese M. Terlaje<br>Tina Rose Muña Barnes<br>Frank Blas, Jr.<br>Chris Barnett<br>Sabina Flores Perez<br>William A. Parkinson<br>Roy A. B. Quinata<br>Joe S. San Agustin<br>Amanda L. Shelton<br>Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas<br>Joanne Brown<br>Christopher M. Dueñas<br>Thomas J. Fisher<br>Jesse A. Lujan<br>Telo T. Taitague | Relative to recognizing the observance of " <i>War Survivor Remembrance Day</i> " on June 28, 2023, as part of the celebration of the Seventy-Ninth (79th) Anniversary of Guam's Liberation, to offer recognition and remember every one of the survivors of Guam's wartime monstrosities for their rousing boldness and persistence; and commending the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their commitment and administration in propagating the stories and accounts of the hardships of all those affected during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II. | 6/27/23<br>1:55 p.m. | 6/28/23<br>10:00 a.m. | 6/27/23      |               |             |                     |                           |       |

Resolution No. 151-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Frank Blas, Jr.  
Chris Barnett  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Joanne Brown  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Thomas J. Fisher  
Jesse A. Lujan  
William A. Parkinson  
Roy A. B. Quinata  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Telo T. Taitague



Relative to recognizing the observance of "War Survivor Remembrance Day" on June 28, 2023, as part of the celebration of the Seventy-Ninth (79<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of Guam's Liberation, to offer recognition and remember every one of the survivors of Guam's wartime monstrosities for their rousing boldness and persistence; and commending the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their commitment and administration in propagating the stories and accounts of the hardships of all those affected during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:

WHEREAS, perhaps of the most horrific and tragic event in our island's history occurred during The Second Great War, from December 8, 1941 to August 10, 1944; for 32 months, the *Chamorro*s suffered the harsh realities of war, leaving thousands of the *Chamorro* people with wounds that will never heal; and

WHEREAS, they were oppressed and compelled to work for little to no compensation, and numerous families suffered the loss of property and their livelihoods. The assault of women was widespread, and children were unjustifiably denied their innocence. A vast many of *Chamorro*s were exposed to maltreatment, confinement, and torture, and in excess of a thousand residents were killed by the Japanese Imperial Army; and

WHEREAS, the atrocities that brought about the passings of a considerable number of our people were immensely overwhelming; and robbing the *Chamorro* people of their peaceful lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, on November 15, 1945, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 79-225, the "Meritorious Claims Act of 1945." This Act authorized the Secretary of the Navy to adjudicate and settle claims "for the purpose of granting immediate relief to the residents of Guam by the prompt settlement of meritorious claims." Although Guam had a surviving population of about twenty-one thousand (21,000) residents, only six thousand six hundred forty-six (6,646) claims were filed. The number was significantly lower than expected considering that almost every individual who was on Guam during the occupation was subject to humiliation, beatings, and/or loss of property; and

WHEREAS, as Guam continues to fight for appropriate recognition for those who suffered during World War II from the U.S. Congress, we must do everything we can to honor the memories and the stories of those who endured permanent sufferings. The legacy of our war survivors, known as our "Greatest Generation," should be recognized by all of the people of Guam; and War Survivor Remembrance Day is an appropriate day to honor the survivors who have gone before us, celebrate the lives of those still with us, and remind future generations that they must never forget the "Greatest Generation" of our island's history; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2015, Guam Public Law 33-56 was enacted declaring that June 28<sup>th</sup> of each year be observed as "War Survivor Remembrance Day." June 28<sup>th</sup> marks an important date in Guam's history, it was the date that President Harry S. Truman transmitted a request to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration of an appropriation for the U.S. Navy Department to pay claims for death or personal injury to residents in Guam for suffering through the war, and in recognition of the *Chamorro* people who endured one of the most tragic and horrific enemy occupations; and

WHEREAS, days after celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our island's liberation from Japanese occupation, H.R. 1365 passed the U.S. Senate by unanimous vote, a testament of strong bipartisan support to bring closure to our island's greatest generation. The Guam War World II Reconciliation Act of 2021, established a locally-implemented program to compensate those survivors and descendants who missed the initial deadline for the filing of war claims under federal law. The sum of ten (10) million was appropriated from the general fund to the Guam War Claims Fund to pay certified claims to compensable Guam victims and survivors of compensable Guam decedents as duly adjudicated by the adjudication committee, initiated to help our people heal from the traumas of war; and

WHEREAS, to help ensure that the sacrifices and legacy of Guam's war survivors is truly perpetuated for years to come, the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation was formed and organizes War Survivor Remembrance Day events that cater to all age groups and social classes. These events include a Memorial Mass that is held every year at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica and a concert series dedicated to the survivors of World War II, featuring the music from that era; and the Foundation has published books featuring the inspiring and heart-wrenching stories of the war survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation also developed a website that is dedicated to allowing war survivors for their families with an outlet to share the hardships they faced during the Japanese occupation. Before the website was created, Senator Frank Blas, Jr., President of the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation, his senatorial staff, their friends from Expressions Studio, and companies who kindly offered their help, started a weekly series in the Guam edition of the Marianas Variety newspaper called "Real People. Real Stories"; they provided transcribed testimonies from the war survivors who spoke before the Guam War Claims Review Commission in December of 2003. "Real People. Real Stories" was created to educate the community about the horrendous experiences of the *Chamorro* people during the war and to remind the U.S. government of its obligation to compensate those who survived the war, and the heirs of those who were killed; and

WHEREAS, the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation, in collaboration with the Guam Economic Development Authority, PBS Guam, KUAM Communications, and Shooting Star Productions, presented tributes to Guam's World War II survivors through various productions, such as "Sentimental Journey: Guam Songs Remembered" in 2020 which featured songs that were popular during the Japanese occupation of Guam in World War II, and "Let Your Spirit Dance" during War Survivor Remembrance Day in 2021 which featured Guam's younger generation paying tribute to war survivors through their joy in dancing; and

WHEREAS, our island's war survivors represent the greatest generation there ever was. Today, we join together to honor the strength and resilience that has laid the groundwork towards the tranquil life today. Let us never forget that the pain of the past remains, our island's greatest generation legacy has taught us that forgiveness allows our people to wipe away the tears of war and to rebuild on the struggles and suffering they endured for a more vibrant and a more resilient people and community; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that of I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the observance of "War Survivor Remembrance Day" on June 28, 2023, as part of the celebration of the Seventy-Ninth (79<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of Guam's Liberation, to offer recognition and remember every one of the survivors of Guam's wartime monstrosities for their rousing boldness and persistence; and commend the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their commitment and administration in propagating the stories and accounts of the hardships of all those affected during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II; 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 Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Magi'hagan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2023.

  
THERESE M. TERLAJE  
Speaker

  
AMANDA L. SHELTON  
Legislative Secretary



  
6-28-23  
9:18 AM

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2023 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 151-37 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Frank Blas, Jr.  
Chris Barnett  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Joanne Brown  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Thomas J. Fisher  
Jesse A. Lujan  
William A. Parkinson  
Roy A.B. Quinata  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Telo T. Taitague

**Relative to recognizing the observance of “*War Survivor Remembrance Day*” on June 28, 2023, as part of the celebration of the Seventy-Ninth (79<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of Guam’s Liberation, to offer recognition and remember every one of the survivors of Guam’s wartime monstrosities for their rousing boldness and persistence; and commending the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their commitment and administration in propagating the stories and accounts of the hardships of all those affected during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II.**

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

3           **WHEREAS**, perhaps of the most horrific and tragic event in our island’s history  
4 occurred during The Second Great War, from December 8, 1941 to August 10, 1944;

1 for 32 months, the *CHamorus* suffered the harsh realities of war, leaving thousands of  
2 the *CHamoru* people with wounds that will never heal; and

3 **WHEREAS**, they were oppressed and compelled to work for little to no  
4 compensation, and numerous families suffered the loss of property and their  
5 livelihoods. The assault of women was widespread, and children were unjustifiably  
6 denied their innocence. A vast many of *CHamorus* were exposed to maltreatment,  
7 confinement, and torture, and in excess of a thousand residents were killed by the  
8 Japanese Imperial Army; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the atrocities that brought about the passings of a considerable  
10 number of our people were immensely overwhelming; and robbing the *CHamoru*  
11 people of their peaceful lifestyle; and

12 **WHEREAS**, on November 15, 1945, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 79-  
13 225, the “Meritorious Claims Act of 1945.” This Act authorized the Secretary of the  
14 Navy to adjudicate and settle claims “for the purpose of granting immediate relief to the  
15 residents of Guam by the prompt settlement of meritorious claims.” Although Guam  
16 had a surviving population of about twenty-one thousand (21,000) residents, only six  
17 thousand six hundred forty-six (6,646) claims were filed. The number was significantly  
18 lower than expected considering that almost every individual who was on Guam during  
19 the occupation was subject to humiliation, beatings, and/or loss of property; and

20 **WHEREAS**, as Guam continues to fight for appropriate recognition for those  
21 who suffered during World War II from the U.S. Congress, we must do everything we  
22 can to honor the memories and the stories of those who endured permanent sufferings.  
23 The legacy of our war survivors, known as our “Greatest Generation,” should be  
24 recognized by all of the people of Guam; and War Survivor Remembrance Day is an  
25 appropriate day to honor the survivors who have gone before us, celebrate the lives of  
26 those still with us, and remind future generations that they must never forget the  
27 “Greatest Generation” of our island’s history; and

1           **WHEREAS**, on June 26, 2015, Guam Public Law 33-56 was enacted declaring  
2 that June 28th of each year be observed as “War Survivor Remembrance Day.” June  
3 28th marks an important date in Guam's history, it was the date that President Harry S.  
4 Truman transmitted a request to the U.S. House of Representatives for consideration of  
5 an appropriation for the U.S. Navy Department to pay claims for death or personal  
6 injury to residents in Guam for suffering through the war, and in recognition of the  
7 CHamoru people who endured one of the most tragic and horrific enemy occupations;  
8 and

9           **WHEREAS**, days after celebrating the 75th Anniversary of our island’s  
10 liberation from Japanese occupation, H.R. 1365 passed the U.S. Senate by unanimous  
11 vote, a testament of strong bipartisan support to bring closure to our island’s greatest  
12 generation. The Guam War World II Reconciliation Act of 2021, established a locally-  
13 implemented program to compensate those survivors and descendants who missed the  
14 initial deadline for the filing of war claims under federal law. The sum of ten (10)  
15 million was appropriated from the general fund to the Guam War Claims Fund to pay  
16 certified claims to compensable Guam victims and survivors of compensable Guam  
17 decedents as duly adjudicated by the adjudication committee, initiated to help our  
18 people heal from the traumas of war; and

19           **WHEREAS**, to help ensure that the sacrifices and legacy of Guam’s war  
20 survivors is truly perpetuated for years to come, the Guam War Survivors Memorial  
21 Foundation was formed and organizes War Survivor Remembrance Day events that  
22 cater to all age groups and social classes. These events include a Memorial Mass that is  
23 held every year at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica and a concert series  
24 dedicated to the survivors of World War II, featuring the music from that era; and the  
25 Foundation has published books featuring the inspiring and heart-wrenching stories of  
26 the war survivors and their families; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation also developed a  
2 website that is dedicated to allowing war survivors or their families with an outlet to  
3 share the hardships they faced during the Japanese occupation. Before the website was  
4 created, Senator Frank Blas, Jr., President of the Guam War Survivors Memorial  
5 Foundation, his senatorial staff, their friends from Expressions Studio, and companies  
6 who kindly offered their help, started a weekly series in the Guam edition of the  
7 Marianas Variety newspaper called “Real People. Real Stories”; they provided  
8 transcribed testimonies from the war survivors who spoke before the Guam War Claims  
9 Review Commission in December of 2003. “Real People. Real Stories” was created to  
10 educate the community about the horrendous experiences of the CHamoru people  
11 during the war and to remind the U.S. government of its obligation to compensate those  
12 who survived the war, and the heirs of those who were killed; and

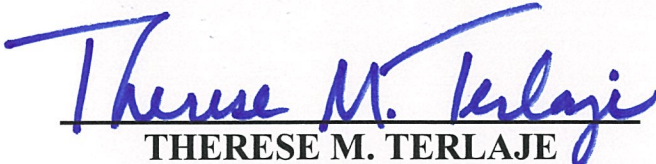
13           **WHEREAS**, the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation, in collaboration  
14 with the Guam Economic Development Authority, PBS Guam, KUAM  
15 Communications, and Shooting Star Productions, presented tributes to Guam's World  
16 War II survivors through various productions, such as “Sentimental Journey: Guam  
17 Songs Remembered” in 2020 which featured songs that were popular during the  
18 Japanese occupation of Guam in World War II, and “Let Your Spirit Dance” during  
19 War Survivor Remembrance Day in 2021 which featured Guam's younger generation  
20 paying tribute to war survivors through their joy in dancing; and


21           **WHEREAS**, our island’s war survivors represent the greatest generation there  
22 ever was. Today, we join together to honor the strength and resilience that has laid the  
23 groundwork towards the tranquil life today. Let us never forget that the pain of the past  
24 remains, our island’s greatest generation legacy has taught us that forgiveness allows  
25 our people to wipe away the tears of war and to rebuild on the struggles and suffering  
26 they endured for a more vibrant and a more resilient people and community; now  
27 therefore, be it

1           **RESOLVED**, that of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
2 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the observance of “*War Survivor*  
3 *Remembrance Day*” on June 28, 2023, as part of the celebration of the Seventy-Ninth  
4 (79<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of Guam’s Liberation, to offer recognition and remember every one  
5 of the survivors of Guam’s wartime monstrosities for their rousing boldness and  
6 persistence; and commend the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their  
7 commitment and administration in propagating the stories and accounts of the hardships  
8 of all those affected during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II; and  
9 be it further

10           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
11 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Guam War  
12 Survivors Memorial Foundation; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*  
13 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY OF *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2023.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary



Office of the Speaker  
**THERESE M. TERLAJE**

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* | 37th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

June 27, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Subject: **Notice of Presentation - Resolution No. 151-37 (LS)**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai!*

Please join us for the presentation of Resolution No. 151-37 (LS) - "Relative to recognizing the observance of "War Survivor Remembrance Day" on June 28, 2023, as part of the celebration of the Seventy-Ninth (79th) Anniversary of Guam's Liberation, to offer recognition and remember every one of the survivors of Guam's wartime monstrosities for their rousing boldness and persistence; and commending the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their commitment and administration in propagating the stories and accounts of the hardships of all those affected during the Japanese occupation of Guam during World War II."

The presentation will be held on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.**

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

**The Committee on Rules has waived the 24-Hour Presentation Notice.**

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Email: [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com) | [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com)

*\*For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)*