

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
473-37 (LS)	Amanda L. Shelton	Relative to commending and congratulating the Academy of Our Lady of Guam on the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee, fostering academic excellence and service for the last Seventy-five (75) years.	8/26/24 3:45 p.m.	9/29/24 11:00 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No.473-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 

Relative to commending and congratulating the Academy of Our Lady of Guam on the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee, fostering academic excellence and service for the last Seventy-five (75) years.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, a four (4) year Archdiocesan
4 College Preparatory School, was founded on September 8, 1949 by the late Bishop
5 Appolinaris W. Baumgartner and Sister Mary Inez Underwood, RSM, and named after
6 its patroness, Santa Marian Kamalen; and

7 **WHEREAS**, this Catholic institution is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year
8 marking seventy-five (75) years as a premiere all-girls fully accredited Catholic college
9 preparatory school and accepted by the community as a repository of intellectual
10 excellence; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Academy has developed from its humble beginnings housed in
12 Quonset huts with just thirty-six (36) students, to grow into an impressive two-story
13 building with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities aimed at providing the best
14 educational tools for its current population of two hundred-seventy (270) students; and

15 **WHEREAS**, thirty-five (35) students from the Academy became its first

1 graduates, receiving their diplomas from Bishop Appolinaris Baumgartner at the
2 *Hagatna* Cathedral Church in 1953; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1960, the Academy expanded into a permanent two-story
4 building to accommodate its growing student body, and in 1973, received full
5 accreditation and national recognition from the Western Association of Secondary
6 Schools and Colleges; and

7 **WHEREAS**, from 1974 to 1990, the Academy underwent additional building
8 expansions and renovations, including the completion of the Cafeteria/Auditorium
9 building, peak enrollment, enhanced Curricular and Co-Curricular programs, high
10 academic achievements, and notable success in National College Board test results; and

11 **WHEREAS**, from 1993 to 2005, the Academy further expanded, adding a
12 gymnasium, the former Cathedral Grade School building and facilities, and the Camarin
13 Courtyard, featuring a life-size statue of Our Lady of Camarin overlooking the
14 courtyard; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Academy underwent extensive renovations and repairs
16 following Super Typhoon Paka in 1997, Super Typhoon Pongsona in 2002, and
17 Typhoon Mawar in 2023; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Sisters of Mercy of the Americas comprised the
19 administration of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam up until 2022, and serve alongside
20 the faculty of dedicated and seasoned lay men and women who continue to provide a
21 high level of personal attention to complement the excellent education that is the
22 hallmark of its history and legacy for the future; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam's hallmark is excellence; it
24 maintains membership with the National Catholic Education Association; and is proud
25 of the more than six thousand (6,000) alumnae of diverse cultural background who have

1 been empowered spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, morally, and
2 physically for the challenges of adult life after passing through the portals of the
3 Academy; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Academy offers a diverse school curriculum aimed at helping
5 students discover and strengthen their talents and relate these talents to significant
6 experiences and emergent problems of today's society and in the process has been
7 turning out Christian women well-informed and creative in their involvements; and

8 **WHEREAS**, exhibiting high academic performance at the Academy, graduates
9 have been recipients of various scholarships offered by the colleges of their choice.
10 These include the Honors Scholarships, the Trustee Regents Scholarships, and the
11 President's/Dean's Scholarship. The Academy students have been National Merit
12 Scholarship Semi-Finalist and Finalist awardees, Presidential Scholars, and recipients
13 of the University of Guam Merit Scholarship; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, located in *Hagatna*, Guam,
15 has over ninety-five percent (95%) of its graduating classes go on to higher education
16 and receive acceptance at top colleges and universities. Alumnae may be found in
17 leadership positions as doctors, judges, lawyers, corporate executives, educators,
18 Church leaders, foreign relation officers, public officials, and numerous other career
19 paths; and

20 **WHEREAS**, because of the attainment of high standards of education, students
21 of the Academy are known for their scholastic achievements many of whom have been
22 accepted in the best colleges and universities in the United States, Europe, and Asia;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Academy students are known for their scholastic
25 accomplishments, as evidenced by their acceptance at the best colleges and universities,

1 including Harvard, Yale, MIT, Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania, the University
2 of Chicago, the University of Notre Dame, the University of America, Georgetown
3 University, the Oxford University in England, and the International University of Japan;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam continues its commitment to
6 nurturing and mentoring young women, and empowering them to make significant
7 contributions to the Church, society, and the world-at-large since its establishment; and

8 **WHEREAS**, our island is in need of positive role models for our community as
9 it continues to the new millennium, the Academy expects to be true to its objective to
10 be an institution where one enters as a girl and departs as a woman, an institution where
11 tomorrow's leaders are in the making; and

12 **WHEREAS**, to celebrate the Academy of Our Lady of Guam's Seventy-fifth
13 (75th) Anniversary, with the theme "A legacy of empowering women to lead with faith,
14 compassion, and excellence", the Academy has organized a series of events, which
15 include: celebrating Mass at the Cathedral-Basilica, *Hagatna*, and a banquet featuring
16 the Academy's alumnae at the school gymnasium on September 29th, 2024; now
17 therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
19 on behalf of the people of Guam, commend and congratulate the Academy of Our Lady
20 of Guam on the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee, fostering academic excellence and
21 service for the last Seventy-five (75) years; and be it further

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
23 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Dr. Rita Duenas
24 Ed.D., President of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam; to Mrs. Iris Gaza, Principal of

- 1 the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero,
- 2 *I Maga'hågan Guåhan.*

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE ____ DAY OF 2024.

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary