

I MINA'TRENTAI KU'ATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GU'AHAN
RESOLUTION STATUS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
136-34 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje Régine Biscoe Lee FRANK B. AGUON, JR. Telena Cruz Nelson Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. B. J.F. Cruz Thomas C. Ada William M. Castro Fernando Barcinas Esteves	Relative to honoring and commending all the survivors of Guam's Wartime occupation for their tremendous courage and perseverance through one of the most tragic and difficult times in our island's history; and to extending <i>Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'</i> to the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their dedication and service to all those affected by this tragic event as we join them in celebrating "War Survivor Remembrance Day" on June 28, 2017.	5/24/17 2:29 p.m.	6/22/17 9:00 a.m.						

**I MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Resolution No. 13634 LS

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje

Régine Biscoe Lee

FRANK AGUION, JR.

TELENA C. NELSON

DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

B. J. Cruz

J. C. Ada

W. L. CASTRO

Fernando Barcinas Esteves F.B.E.

2017 MAY 24 PM 2:29

Relative to honoring and commending all the survivors of Guam's Wartime occupation for their tremendous courage and perseverance through one of the most tragic and difficult times in our island's history; and to extending *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their dedication and service to all those affected by this tragic event as we join them in celebrating "War Survivor Remembrance Day" on June 28, 2017.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I
2 MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:

3 WHEREAS, one of the most tragic and horrific events in our island's history
4 occurred during World War II, from December 8, 1941 to August 10, 1944. The
5 atrocities that the enemy forces inflicted upon the people of Guam have left scars that

1 will never heal. Chamorros were enslaved and forced to work for little to no
2 compensation. Many families suffered the loss of personal property and livelihood.
3 The rape of women ran rampant, while children were unfairly robbed of their
4 innocence. Thousands of Chamorros were subjected to physical abuse, detention, and
5 torture. These heinous acts resulted in the death of over one thousand residents. In the
6 end, the peaceful life that they had and cherished before the war was lost forever; and

7 **WHEREAS**, on November 15, 1945, the Meritorious Claims Act, “for the
8 purpose of granting immediate relief to the residents of Guam by the prompt
9 settlement of meritorious claims”, was signed into law. Although Guam had a
10 surviving population of about twenty-one thousand (21,000), only six thousand six
11 hundred and forty-six (6,646) claims were filed. This number was significantly lower
12 than expected considering that almost every individual who was on Guam during the
13 occupation was subjected to humiliation, beatings, and/or loss of property.

14 **WHEREAS**, Senator Antonio Palomo highlighted an excerpt from a Senate
15 report accompanying the Meritorious Claims Act in his book “An Island in Agony”. It
16 read: “in the future this island will become one of the most important United States
17 naval and air bases in the Pacific. Its people have been loyal towards the United
18 States. The Committee believes that the enactment of this bill is just and warranted,
19 that it would be helpful in retaining the good will of these people in the future, and
20 that it will be a sound investment in our future society”.

21 **WHEREAS**, while we continue to fight for appropriate recognition of their
22 suffering from U.S. Congress, we must do everything we can here on Guam to honor
23 the memories and the stories of those who endured so much. The legacy and heritage
24 of our war survivors, known as our *Greatest Generation*, should be recognized by all
25 the people of Guam; and

1 **WHEREAS**, that is why on June 26, 2015, public law was enacted declaring
2 that June 28th of every year be recognized as “War Survivor Remembrance Day.” The
3 day marks President Harry S. Truman’s transmittal request to the U.S. House of
4 Representatives that the Navy Department pay claims for death or personal injury to
5 residents on Guam for suffering through the war; and

6 **WHEREAS**, this day honors the war survivors who have gone before us, to
7 celebrate the lives of those still with us, and to remind all future generations that they
8 must never forget the *Greatest Generation* that ever was; and

9 **WHEREAS**, to help ensure that their sacrifice and legacy is truly perpetuated
10 for years to come, the Guam War Survivor’s Memorial Foundation organizes events
11 that cater to all age groups and walks of life. These events include a memorial mass
12 that is held every year on December 8 at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-
13 Basilica and a concert series dedicated to the survivors of World War II featuring the
14 music from that era. The Foundation has published two (2) books, with a third on the
15 way, that feature the inspiring and heart-wrenching stories of survivors and their
16 families; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Guam War Survivor’s Memorial Foundation also runs a
18 website dedicated to allowing survivors or their families an outlet to share the
19 hardships they faced during the Japanese Occupation. Before the site was created,
20 Senator Frank Blas Jr., President of the Guam War Survivor’s Memorial Foundation,
21 his senatorial staff, their friends from Expressions Studio, and companies who wanted
22 to help, started a weekly series in the Guam edition of the Marianas Variety
23 newspaper called “Real People. Real Stories.” They provided transcribed testimonies
24 from the survivors who spoke before the Guam War Claims Review Commission in
25 December of 2003. “Real People. Real Stories” was created to educate the community
26 of the horrendous experiences of the Chamorro people during the war and to remind

1 the U.S. government of its obligation to compensate those who survived and the heirs
2 of those killed; now, therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Kuattro Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
5 of Guam, honor and commemorate all the survivors of Guam's wartime occupation
6 for their tremendous courage and perseverance through one of the most tragic and
7 difficult times in our island's history; and to extend *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*
8 to the Guam War Survivors Memorial Foundation for their dedication and service to
9 all those affected by this tragic event as we join them in celebrating "War Survivor
10 Remembrance Day" on June 28, 2017; and be it further

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
12 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
13 the same be thereafter transmitted to Senator Frank Blas Jr., President, Guam War
14 Survivor's Memorial Foundation; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I*
15 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____
DAY OF MONTH YEAR.**

BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Speaker

MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Legislative Secretary