

***I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN***  
**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
314-34 (COR)	Joe S. San Agustin	Relative to commending and congratulating the members of the Charleston Lodge No. 44 on the occasion of the lodge's inception on Guam in 1918 and for their unwavering endeavor in promoting the Tenets of Freemasonry of "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; and to further extend Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the Charleston Lodge No. 44 for its service to our island community.	12/20/2017 8:55 a.m.	TBA						

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

Resolution No. 31434 (COR)

Introduced by:

Joe S. San Agustin 

**Relative to commending and congratulating the members of the Charleston Lodge No. 44 on the occasion of the lodge's inception on Guam in 1918 and for their unwavering endeavor in promoting the Tenets of Freemasonry of "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; and to further extend *Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase* to the Charleston Lodge No. 44 for its service to our island community.**

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

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4        **WHEREAS,** in 1917 Charles Lobingier during his brief stay on Guam  
5 proposed the possibility of bringing Masonry to the island. However, because of the  
6 religious beliefs of the people, it was realized that most of the work would have to be  
7 done by transient military personnel. Lobingier suggested as a first step, a Masonic  
8 Sojourners' Association be organized, and, if successful, a petition be addressed to the  
9 Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands for a dispensation to open a lodge; **and**

10        **WHEREAS,** on January 1918, a petition for dispensation was drawn up and  
11 signed by fourteen (14) Masons who were members of lodges in the United States and

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1 who belonged to Lodge Perla del Oriente in Manila, Philippines. Grand Master  
2 Manuel L. Quezon issued a dispensation in February 4, 1918, and on March 4<sup>th</sup>, the  
3 first meeting of Charleston Lodge No. 44 was held at 497 Hernan Cortez Street where  
4 the following were elected: H.R. Jackson, Worshipful Master; William. M. Hantschke,  
5 Senior Warden; H.W. Elliott, Junior Warden; H.E. Merchant, Secretary and W.H.  
6 Wolford, Treasurer; **and**

7 **WHEREAS**, during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in January  
8 1919, part of the papers of Charleston Lodge did not arrive because of the mail service  
9 in Guam. Yet, the Grand Lodge granted it a charter on January 28. On February 25,  
10 1919, the lodge was informed by cablegram that Deputy Grand Master Rafael Palma,  
11 would be on Guam on March 1<sup>st</sup> aboard the U.S. Army Transport Sherman to  
12 constitute Charleston Lodge No. 44 ; **and**

13 **WHEREAS**, due to a short stay of the vessel in port, no passengers would be  
14 allowed to go ashore. The members, however, were permitted to board the vessel, and  
15 a meeting was held in the Captain's cabin aboard the Sherman, and there Charleston  
16 Lodge No. 44 was formally constituted. Its first principal officers under charter  
17 were: William H. Hancethe, Worshipful Master; Harry A. Nagle, Senior Warden;  
18 H.W. Elliott, Junior Warden; and, G.S. Bower, Secretary; **and**

19 **WHEREAS**, from 1918 through 1941 Charleston Lodge progressed steadily  
20 with its membership as most members were part of the military and were temporarily  
21 stationed on Guam. Thus, most could only be raised to the sublime degree of Master  
22 Mason; **and**

23 **WHEREAS**, with the invasion of Guam by the Japanese in December 1941 the  
24 lodge became inactive. Until, the island was once again re-occupied by the U.S.  
25 Marines in July 1944. During the fight for Guam, bombardment leveled the city of  
26 Agana and completely demolished the Masonic lodge hall. Into the ruins came Bro.

1 E.T. Jensen of Oakland, California who was also a member of the U.S. Landing  
2 Forces. His steps led to the demolished lodge hall and there, in the rubble, he found  
3 the charter of Charleston Lodge No. 44 still intact and undamaged. Jensen took the  
4 charter and brought it with him to the United States for safekeeping until it would be  
5 favorable to return it to Guam ; **and**

6 **WHEREAS**, shortly after the liberation of Guam, the usual Square & Compass  
7 Clubs were established. One of these, the Masonic Club of Guam, eventually absorbed  
8 all the other clubs and laid the foundation for post-war Masonic activities on the  
9 island. It was also instrumental in the implementation of the decision of the Grand  
10 Master Michael Goldenberg to reactivate Charleston Lodge ; **and**

11 **WHEREAS**, in March 1946, Worshipful Brother John Taitano, the first  
12 Chamorro to be made a Master Mason in Guam, recommended the resumption of the  
13 activities of Charleston Lodge. Bro. Col. Archibald Tanner transmitted the  
14 recommendation to Grand Master Goldenberg who directed Maj. Robert A. Burri, 33°  
15 to effect the reactivation; **and**

16 **WHEREAS**, during the same time, the Masonic Club of Guam received a letter  
17 from Jensen as he desired to return the lodge's charter. A reply to his letter resulted in  
18 the delivery of the charter by airmail and on the very day the lodge held its first post-  
19 war regular meeting ; **and**

20 **WHEREAS**, Charleston Lodge was officially reactivated on April 6, 1946. In a matter of  
21 weeks its officers were elected and installed. In January 1955, through the combined efforts of all the  
22 Masonic Bodies in Guam, a permanent concrete block two-story Scottish Rite Temple was  
23 completed. This structure is now the home of Charleston Lodge #44, Milton C. Marvin Lodge #123  
24 and Micronesia Lodge #173, as well as the other active Masonic Bodies of the York Rite, Scottish  
25 Rite, Order of the Eastern Star and Marianas Travelers Lodge #49 ; **and**

26 **WHEREAS**, throughout Guam's history the lodge's members have been part  
27 of transforming Guam in a positive manner for the betterment for the citizens of

1 Guam. This iconic organization continues to include members who have made history  
2 for the island of Guam: Governor Manuel F.L. Guerrero and Congressman Antonio B.  
3 Won Pat; **and**

4 **WHEREAS**, the brotherhood that the lodge has carried on continues to go on  
5 strong, and the people of Guam have benefited tremendously through the various  
6 charitable efforts it has provided for decades; **now, therefore, be it**

7 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Kuåttro Na*  
8 *Lihe slaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihe slaturan Guåhan* and the people  
9 of Guam, commend and congratulate members of the Charleston Lodge No. 44 on the  
10 occasion of the lodge's inception on Guam in 1919 and for their unwavering  
11 endeavor in promoting the Tenets of Free Masonry of "Brotherly Love, Relief and  
12 Truth; and to further extend *Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase* to the Charleston Lodge  
13 No. 44 for their service to our island community ;**and be it further;**

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
15 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
16 the same be thereafter transmitted to Charleston Lodge No. 44 and to Most  
17 Worshipful Abraham N. Tolentino, Grand Master of Masons in the Jurisdiction of the  
18 Philippines therefore, be it; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'laha*  
19 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF  
I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE XXX  
DAY OF XXX 2017.**

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**BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ**  
Speaker

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**RIGINE BISCOE LEE**  
Legislative Secretary

