

MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 41(ec)

Introduced by:

J. T. Won Pat *JT*

AN ACT ADD SECTION 3218 OF ARTICLE 2,
CHAPTER 3, DIVISION 2 OF TITLE 17, GUAM
CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO
ESTABLISHING "ONRA I MANFÅYI" PROGRAM
AWARDING AN HONORARY HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMAS TO WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR
AND VIETNAM CONFLICT VETERANS AS WELL
AS PERSONS WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II IN
THE GUAM COMBAT PATROL, WAKE ISLAND
DEFENDERS, GUAM MILITIA OR CIVILIAN
SCOUTS, WHO WERE UNABLE TO COMPLETE
THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
3 when the people of Guam are called upon to serve our country, Guamanians
4 stepped forward, putting their lives on hold to protect the freedom for all
5 Americans. Answering that call not only meant leaving their families, but
6 putting their formal education on hold, and in many cases dashing the dream
7 of receiving a high school diploma.

1 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to recognize the sacrifices of our
2 veterans by establishing "*Onra I Manfåyi*" program that allows the awarding of
3 honorary high school diplomas to veterans of World War II, Korean War and
4 Vietnam Conflict, who were unable to complete their high school education.
5 Additionally, recognizing those who served during World War II in the Guam
6 Combat Patrol, Wake Island Defenders, Guam Militia or Civilian Scouts, who
7 were unable to complete their high school education.

8 The establishment of "*Onra I Manfåyi*" program is a small, overdue,
9 gesture of our island's gratitude for their many sacrifices they made for us.
10 We are forever indebted to them for their service to our country.

11 **Section 2.** §3218 is hereby added to Article 2, Chapter 3, Division 2 of
12 Title 17 of the Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

13 **§3218. Onra I Manfåyi.** (a) The Department of Education
14 ("Department") with the cooperation of the Office of Veterans Affairs
15 ("Office") shall develop and administer a program to be known as "*Onra I*
16 *Manfåyi*". The purpose of the program is to award an honorary high school
17 diplomas to World War II, Korean War and Vietnam Conflict veterans, as well
18 as persons who served in World War II in the Guam Combat Patrol, Wake
19 Island Defenders, Guam Militia or Civilian Scouts. The Department and Office
20 shall jointly develop an application procedure, distribute applications and
21 publicize the program.

22 (b) The Department may award an honorary high school diploma to a
23 current or former Guam resident who:

24 (1) did not return to school and complete their education after the war;
25 and

1 (2) served in the United States armed forces services during World War
2 II from 1939 through 1947, during the Korean war from 1950 to 1953 or
3 Vietnam conflict 1961 through 1975;

4 (i) died in active service; or

5 (ii) was honorably discharged

6 (c) A current or former Guam resident, who did not receive a high
7 school diploma and served during World War II in the Guam Combat Patrol,
8 Wake Island Defenders, Guam Militia or Civilian Scouts, may receive an
9 honorary high school diploma.

10 (d) A person who would have qualified for an honorary high school
11 diploma under this section is deceased or incapacitated, a family member may
12 apply for and receive on the person's behalf.

13 (e) The Department and Office shall jointly perform an annual awarding
14 of the honorary high school diplomas as part of a high school graduation
15 ceremony or as a separate ceremony to be held on or around Veterans Day.

16 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This Section shall take effect upon signature
17 of I Maga'lahaen Guåhan.