

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 59-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz
T. R. Muña Barnes
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
Chris M. Duenas
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Taijeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing the late Kathleen (Kate) Thelma Thomas for her many dedicated years of service in the social work field; and to further commending her for her tireless efforts to improve the quality of life of the people of Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**
3 **WHEREAS, Kathleen Thelma Thomas, affectionately known as Kate, was**
4 **born on December 30, 1953, to Steven and Sally Thomas, and was raised on the island**
5 **of Guam; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, Kate Thomas, a true “Islander” in every sense of the word,
2 graduated from John F. Kennedy (JFK) High School, CLASS of 1972; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Kate Thomas is survived by her daughter, Kathleen, and
4 son-in-law, Tommy Benavente; along with her four (4) grandchildren: Donavin,
5 Byron, Kaeleen and Allysa; and her two (2) great-grandchildren: Tiffany Jane and
6 Ayvie’anuh Castro. Her siblings include her brother, Steve (Arizona); and her sisters,
7 Carmelita (South Carolina), Angelina (Texas), and Sarah (Latte Plantation, Guam).
8 Her extended family includes her lifelong friends, godchildren, and other relatives in
9 Guam, the Philippines, and the U.S. mainland; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s dear sister, Sarah, eulogized at Kate’s funeral that in all of
11 Kate’s relationships, Kate undoubtedly gave the best of her love; and

12 **WHEREAS**, shortly before Kate’s passing, on a drive to the mountains in the
13 Philippines, Sarah recalled Kate singing the song “Best of My Love” so beautifully
14 and eloquently. Kate was indeed blessed with the gift of voice, as many people fondly
15 remember her as the lead female vocalist for the popular bands *Breezin’* and
16 *Konfrence*; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the mother-daughter relationship Kate shares with her daughter,
18 Kathleen, is particularly special, not only because they share the same name, but also
19 because she first came to her as a foster child, and the bond was so genuine and real,
20 that mother Kathleen made the adoption official shortly thereafter; and

21 **WHEREAS**, this special relationship also aligns itself with Kate’s lifelong
22 commitment to social work, as she was, very appropriately, the President of the Foster
23 Families Association of Guam, advocating for the well-being of foster children, and
24 prospective foster children island-wide. Her activities as the Association’s President
25 included providing emotional support, organizing get-togethers, facilitating
26 fundraisers, and trainings for foster parents; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Kate's commitment to social work includes over thirty (30) years
2 of working in human services, accumulating extensive experience in the field. Her
3 career included a wide array of positions, including house parent, crisis worker and
4 caseworker for Sanctuary, Inc.; Case Manager for *Guma Mami*; Administrative
5 Assistant for the Protection and Advocacy Office; and her most recent position, Para
6 Professional/Homemaker with the Bureau of Social Services Administration of the
7 Department of Public Health and Social Services; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Kate's many years of experience are complemented by extensive
9 community services, such as her work as a certified mediator for the *Inafa' Maolek*
10 Conciliation Service. Kate was often called upon to help people resolve all types of
11 conflicts, but was known specifically for her specialty in child and family mediations;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, Kate's volunteerism extended to her advocacy for the National
14 Mother Read/Father Read Family Literacy Program, based out of Sanctuary
15 Incorporated, which was a fifteen (15) week program held on Saturdays that had
16 parents reading to their children, in order to increase their reading levels and build
17 communication skills between parents and their children; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Kate also advocated for the well-being of women, as she worked
19 closely with the Oasis Empowerment Center, an organization that works with women
20 recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence situations, or women that
21 are having relationship problems with their partners. Initially involved solely as a
22 Board Member, Kate took it upon herself to help facilitate a chemical recovery group
23 once a week, which resulted in her becoming a residential manager, assisting those in
24 the first stage of recovery as part of a three (3) stage program; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s community services also included her facilitation of the
2 *Chansa* program at the Department of Youth Affairs, and a co-facilitator for parenting
3 groups at Sanctuary Incorporated; and

4 **WHEREAS**, because of her love for animals, Kate was also a member of the
5 Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), an organization that advocates for the rights of
6 animals to be protected from maltreatment and to be in a safe and loving home; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Kate was also an advocate for physical fitness, nutrition, and
8 health these last five (5) years, as she was a contestant on the “Biggest Loser” show
9 here on Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the late Kathleen Thelma Thomas, like her highly respected
11 mother, Sally, had also been an educator at San Vicente Catholic School, Santa
12 Barbara Catholic School, Maria Ulloa Elementary School, and with the Department of
13 Education as a CRT at F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the late Kathleen Thelma Thomas had also served on many task
15 forces and professional groups, including as an Officer of the Guam Association of
16 Social Workers, and a Board Member of *Guma Mami*, Inc., *Payu-ta*, and the
17 Micronesian Youth Services Network (MYSN); and

18 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s outstanding contributions to the community are well
19 known and acknowledged. In 2005, she was awarded the Community Service Award
20 of the Department of Public Health and Social Services Employee Recognition
21 Program; and in 2006, Kate was once again acknowledged for her volunteerism when
22 she was awarded the prestigious Public Citizens Award from the National Association
23 of Social Workers (NASW) Guam Chapter, and the Governor's MagHope Award of
24 Excellence later that same year; now, therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
26 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the late Kathleen (Kate)

1 Thelma Thomas for her many dedicated years of service in the social work field, for
2 touching the lives of so many people, for being an inspiration to all who knew her,
3 and for being a true example of all that is good; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
5 the adoption thereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the late
6 Kathleen (Kate) Thelma Thomas' daughter, Kathleen Benavente; to Kate's siblings:
7 Sarah, Carmelita, Angelina and Steven; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I*
8 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 23RD DAY OF MARCH, 2011.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary