

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

**Resolution No. 288-31 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.

T. C. Ada

V. Anthony Ada

F. F. Blas, Jr.

B. J.F. Cruz

Chris M. Dueñas

Judith P. Guthertz, DPA

Sam Mabini, Ph.D.

T. R. Muña Barnes

Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

v.c. pangelinan

R. J. Respicio

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

M. Silva Taijeron

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

**Relative to recognizing and commending Mr. Juan “John” Blas Perez on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Guam (UOG); and to further extending heartfelt thanks to him for his dedicated and exceptional service to the University of Guam students and faculty, and the island community for the past twenty-two (22) years.**

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

3        **WHEREAS**, during his first career as a Seaman in the United States Navy, Mr.  
4 Juan “John” Blas Perez dedicated his life to the protection and service of the United

1 States of America; and later to the students, faculty and community at the University  
2 of Guam (UOG), as part of the UOG Library Audio-Visual Division -- for a total of  
3 forty-four (44) years of honorable public service; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez was born on June 24, 1949, and is from the village of  
5 *Barrigada*; his parents are the late Manuel Baltasar Martinez Perez and Efigenia Blas  
6 Perez; he is the second eldest child of eight (8) children, and his siblings are: June,  
7 Bernadette, Joseph, Julie, Barbara, Marie, and Carmen; and he is the proud father of  
8 Katrina Antoinette Perez; and

9 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from George Washington High School in 1967,  
10 the eighteen (18) year old John joined the U.S. Navy on June 28, 1967, and served a  
11 tour in Viet Nam; first being assigned to the combat store ship, the USS *Aludra* (AF-  
12 55) before serving on shore at Camp Tien Shaw in Da Nang, VietNam providing  
13 supplies to the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez would serve on five (5) additional ships, including the  
15 USS *Grasp* (ARS-24); the USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10), a helicopter carrier; the USS *Ajax*  
16 (AR-6), a repair ship; the USS *Marvin Shields* (FF-1066), a fast frigate; and the USS  
17 *Ogden* (LPD-5), a landing personnel dock; and

18 **WHEREAS**, it was on the USS *Marvin Shields* that Mr. Perez served as the  
19 Acting Division Officer of the Engine and Fire Room, and was responsible for one  
20 hundred fifty (150) people; and while the ship was out at sea for a six (6)-month tour,  
21 starting in the Western Pacific and navigating in open waters to the Indian Ocean and  
22 back to its homeport in San Diego, California, it happened that the ship had lost its  
23 water distilling plant, which was vital to operations and life on board; and over the  
24 next forty-eight (48) hours, Mr. Perez, who was a Senior Chief Petty Officer, worked  
25 tirelessly to repair the machine that was responsible for providing water to run the  
26 ship's power plant boilers and to sustain life, providing the water for drinking,

1 cooking, and sanitation; and for this, the ship's Captain bestowed a Navy  
2 Commendation Award upon Mr. Perez for his heroic efforts in saving the ship; and

3       **WHEREAS**, in addition to his sea service, Mr. Perez also served on shore,  
4 returning to Guam after his tour in Viet Nam and working at the Naval Ship Repair  
5 Facility (SRF) in *Sumay*, from 1970 to 1974; initially, Mr. Perez was assigned to  
6 security before moving to repair, where he served as Waterfront Superintendent,  
7 which entailed assigning the ships to different workshops within SRF, according to  
8 the types of repairs or maintenance services required; a task requiring exceptional  
9 organizational management skills; and

10       **WHEREAS**, another shore assignment Mr. Perez would take on was as  
11 Company Commander, serving as a boot camp Drill Instructor at the Recruit Training  
12 Command in San Diego, from 1983 to 1986, where he was responsible for shaping  
13 hundreds of young men into U.S. Navy Sailors who would join the ranks of military  
14 service members in the protection and service of the nation; and

15       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez found this assignment fulfilling and to be a prestigious  
16 duty because it dealt with helping young adults starting out in a career; and oftentimes  
17 proud parents would approach him during "USO Night" (a celebration the night  
18 before graduation) and ask, "Hey, Chief, how did you do this in nine (9)-weeks, when  
19 we've been trying for eighteen (18) years?"; and

20       **WHEREAS**, after twenty-two (22) years of service as a Navy power plant  
21 control man and refrigeration mechanic, and at the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer  
22 (E-9), the highest achievable rank for a non-commissioned officer, Mr. Perez retired  
23 from the U.S. Navy in February 1990 and returned to Guam, where he would begin  
24 his second career at the University of Guam; and

25       **WHEREAS**, in October 1990, Mr. Perez began working at the University of  
26 Guam after successfully interviewing for a position as a Library Technician I at the

1 University of Guam Library; in June 1993, Mr. Perez became a multi-media  
2 technician for the library's Audio-Visual Division; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez carried his experience as a Company Commander to his  
4 new position at the University, where he has exemplified the University's motto of  
5 "*Ina, Diskubre, Setbe*" by example and service, despite suffering multiple heart  
6 attacks within two (2) days in 2005, as he continued working, and his fortitude is  
7 attributed to his love for the University and his desire to continue to serve because he  
8 believed that each student should be treated with respect and dignity, and he provided  
9 accessible, courteous and quality service, and that without them "we (the University)  
10 would not be here;" additionally, Mr. Perez takes pride in assisting the University  
11 faculty to achieve the University mission; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez has been a prominent fixture in the library, coming to  
13 work as early as 6:30 a.m. to ensure that the doors are open, and the classrooms and  
14 multi-media equipment are ready to receive students and faculty when the library  
15 opens at 8 a.m.; and making himself available to anyone who has any questions or  
16 needs technical assistance; and

17 **WHEREAS**, over the years, Mr. Perez has received formal recognition and  
18 commendations from the University for his participation and efforts during biannual  
19 graduation ceremonies, the annual Liberation Day Parade, the annual UOG Charter  
20 Day celebrations, the quarterly UOG Board of Regents meetings, and all the multi-  
21 media support needs of the University on and off campus; and


22 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez has served under the last five (5) UOG Presidents, including  
23 Dr. Wilfred Leon Guerrero, Dr. John Salas, Dr. Jose Nededog, Dr. Harold Allen and  
24 Dr. Robert Underwood; and had worked with the late Dr. Jeff Barcinas, former vice  
25 President of the University and Community Engagement for the University of Guam;  
26 and

1       **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez is also very active in *Barrigada* village's San Vicente-  
2 San Roke Catholic Church Parish, serving as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister; and  
3 has also shared his love of music with the entire community as an active member of  
4 The Island Choralers Men's Choir, from 1970 to 2010, where he had also served as the  
5 Choir Director, from 2007 to 2010; now therefore, be it

6       **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
7 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend Mr. Juan "John" Blas Perez  
8 on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Guam; and does further  
9 extend heartfelt thanks to him for his dedicated and exceptional service to the  
10 University of Guam students and faculty, and the island community for the past  
11 twenty-two (22) years; and be it further

12       **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,  
13 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Juan  
14 Blas Perez; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2011.**

  
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**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**  
Speaker

  
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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Legislative Secretary