

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 345-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

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

Relative to recognizing the contributions made to Guam and our people by Drs. Robert and Ruby Stahlnecker; to acknowledge their humanitarian acts for other Pacific Islands, Nations and people over the past forty three (43) years, and expressing the best wishes of the people of Guam on the occasion of their Retirement.

- 1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***
3 **WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Eugene Stahlnecker grew up in Beloit, Wisconsin,**
4 **attending high school at Bethel Academy, and played saxophone in his school band;**
5 **future spouse Ruby Kahler was raised in College Place, Washington, working as a**

1 teenage office nurse for her doctor father, gaining much valuable medical knowledge
2 under his tutelage; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Stahlnecker was sent to China during World War II, to work
4 behind enemy lines with Chinese guerillas and the U.S. Navy, and following the war,
5 attended Walla Walla University (WWU) in Washington State, where he met his
6 future bride, Ruby, who took nursing courses at Loma Linda University, but before
7 completing the last year of the program they were married and moved to New Mexico,
8 where they taught school, Dr. Stahlnecker also serving as a Pastor; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1953, they traveled to India, working at several schools where
10 Dr. Stahlnecker was Principal, while Ruby taught classes, helped with school
11 administration, served as a nurse, and helped deliver babies when needed, and Dr.
12 Stahlnecker would start a school band, teaching his students to play various
13 instruments, while Ruby taught piano lessons; and

14 **WHEREAS**, they returned to New Mexico in 1958, and Dr. Stahlnecker
15 resumed his education while working as a Pastor; after receiving his Masters, they
16 returned to India in 1960, Dr. Stahlnecker once again a Principal, and Ruby working
17 as an administrator, teacher and nurse, all while raising five (5) children and
18 delivering babies, but returned home after a year, due to the illness of one (1) of their
19 children; and

20 **WHEREAS**, settling in Eugene, Oregon, Ruby taught fifth (5th) and sixth (6th)
21 grades while Dr. Stahlnecker worked on and received his Doctorate; the family then
22 returned to WWU where Dr. Stahlnecker taught Education, and Ruby received her
23 Bachelor's and Master's Degrees while working full time as a Special Education
24 teacher and mother to their five (5) children; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Stahlneckers learned about Guam from Elizabeth and Edna
26 Flores, who were also students at WWU, and decided they would move to Guam in

1 1969 with three (3) of their children, Dr. Stahlnecker, teaching at the University of
2 Guam from 1969-1973 as a member of the Education Department, while Ruby
3 developed and ran the Curriculum Resource Center, and also taught in the Education
4 Department, from 1969 to 1977; and

5 **WHEREAS**, when the Vietnam war ended in 1975, Ruby (through the
6 Adventist Community Center) coordinated volunteers to help with refugee efforts. the
7 Red Cross placed the Adventists to assist and be in charge of distributing the clothes
8 provided by the Red Cross, and offered conversational English classes for refugees,
9 among other activities; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in May 1976, Super Typhoon Pamela devastated Guam, leaving
11 communications with off-island non-existent, so then-Governor Ricky Bordallo, had
12 Dr. Stahlnecker's son Leslie, who worked with Civil Defense, ask his father to use his
13 ham radio to ask the Adventist Disaster and Relief Association (ADRA) for
14 assistance; Dr. Stahlnecker's radio message was the first post-typhoon message to get
15 through; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the radio message resulted in the ADRA shipping seventeen and a
17 half (17-1/2) tons of assistance and emergency supplies by plane to Guam, and
18 Guam's Adventist Community Service helped with the distribution of clothing,
19 provided warehouse space, and unloaded and delivered supplies; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Stahlnecker has remained active over the years with the Ham
21 Radio Club, just as Ruby has remained a faithful supporter of the Adventist
22 Community Service, and the Stahlneckers were very active with the Guam Adventist
23 Academy (GAA), teaching Bible classes and band, giving music lessons to students,
24 assisting High School students through community outreach, working on the school's
25 curriculum organization and serving as GAA Board Members for many years; and

1 **WHEREAS**, after eight (8) years in Guam, the Stahlneckers moved to Sri
2 Lanka to run Lahpahana Adventist Seminary, then returned to California due to
3 Ruby's ill health, Robert pastoring and building a new church in Southern California,
4 while Ruby completed her Ph.D., in Education from nearby La Sierra University; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Stahlneckers returned to Guam in 1986, Ruby working at Upi
6 Elementary School, teaching at the University of Guam (UOG) for five (5) years, and
7 then both Stahlneckers teaching in Yap, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands for UOG's
8 Center for Continuing Education and Outreach Programs. "Grandma" Ruby
9 eventually retiring from the government of Guam in 1991; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Stahlnecker administered the UOG extension program in
11 Saipan from 1990-1993, taught classes and supervised student teachers, with Ruby
12 joining him from 1991-1993 to research and teach for the Northern Marianas College,
13 enabling NMC to receive an important grant; and


14 **WHEREAS** the Stahlneckers returned to Guam in 1993, landing several hours
15 after the 8.2 Earthquake; traveled to China in 1995 to teach Conversational English;
16 returned to Guam for Robert to continue his work as a Lay Pastor, and pushed for and
17 coordinated NET Bible Outreach meetings for four (4) years beginning with NET 96,
18 while Ruby worked for the Governor's Commission for Educator Certification; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Ruby has remained active by making sure Sabbath Bible School
20 lessons, magazines and materials are ordered and received into the hands and hearts of
21 the members of the *Man Aguaiya* Fellowship Company of Seventh-day Adventists
22 alongside "Pastor Bob," the volunteer Lay Pastor who provides spiritual leadership by
23 example through the love and gentleness of Christ, and has been faithful in visiting
24 many homebound and bed-ridden members who have been tremendously blessed and
25 appreciative of this blessed from above ministry, now, therefore, be it

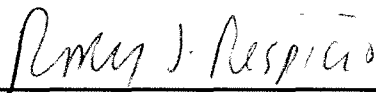
1 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
2 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
3 of Guam, does hereby recognize the contributions made to Guam and our people by
4 Drs. Robert and Ruby Stahlnecker; and does also acknowledge their humanitarian acts
5 for other Pacific islands, nations and people over the past forty three (43) years, and
6 expresses the best wishes of the people of Guam on the occasion of their retirement;
7 and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
9 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
10 the same be thereafter transmitted to Drs. Robert and Ruby Stahlnecker; and to the
11 Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 9TH DAY
MARCH 2012.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary