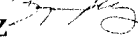



I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

2011 MAR 23 AM 11:55 - be

Resolution No. 54-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz 
T.R. Muña Barnes 

**RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING KATHLEEN THELMA
THOMAS FOR HER MANY DEDICATED YEARS OF
SERVICE IN THE SOCIAL WORK FIELD AND HER
TIRELESS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE
FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUAM.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, Kathleen Thomas, affectionately known as Kate, was
4 born on December 30, 1953 to Steven and Sally Thomas and was raised on
5 the island of Guam; and

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

9 **WHEREAS**, Kate is survived by her daughter Kathleen and son-in-
10 law Tommy Benavente, along with her four grand children Donavin, Byron,
11 Kaeleen and Allysa, and two great-grand children, Tiffany Jane and
12 Ayvie’ anuh Castro. Her siblings include her brother Steve (Arizona) and
13 Sisters Carmelita (South Carolina), Angelina (Texas) and Sarah (Latte
14 Plantation, Guam). Her extended family includes her lifelong friends, God
15 children, and other relatives in Guam, the Philippines and the U.S. mainland;
16 and

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

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

8 **WHEREAS**, the mother-daughter relationship she shares with
9 Kathleen is particularly special not only because they share the same name
10 but rather because she first came to her as a foster child, and the bond was so
11 genuine and real, that mother Kathleen made the adoption official shortly
12 thereafter; and

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

20 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s commitment to social work includes over thirty
21 years of working in human services, accumulating extensive experience in
22 the field. Her career included a wide array of positions, including house
23 parent, crisis worker and caseworker for Sanctuary, Inc, Case Manager for
24 Guma Mami, Administrative Assistant for the Protection and Advocacy
25 Office, and her most recent position, Para Professional/Homemaker for the
26 Bureau of Social Services Administration at the Department of Public
27 Health and Social Services; and,

1 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s many years of experience are complimented by
2 extensive community services, such as her work as a certified mediator for
3 the Inafa’Maolek Conciliation Service. Kate was often called upon to help
4 people resolve all types of conflicts, but was known specifically for her
5 specialty in child and family mediations; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s volunteerism extended to her advocacy for the
7 National Motherread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program, based out of
8 Sanctuary Incorporated, which was a 15-week program held on Saturdays
9 that had parents reading to their children, in order to increase their reading
10 levels and build communication skills between them and their children; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Kate also advocated for the well-being of women, as she
12 worked closely with the Oasis Empowerment Center, a Center that works
13 with women recovering from drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence
14 situations, or women that are having relationship problems with their
15 partners. Initially involved solely as a Board member, Kate took it upon
16 herself to help facilitate a chemical recovery group once a week, which
17 resulted in her becoming a residential manager, assisting those in the first
18 stage of recovery as part of a three-stage program; and

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

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

1 **WHEREAS**, Kate was also an advocate for physical fitness, nutrition,
2 and health these last five years, as she was a contestant on the “Biggest
3 Loser” show here on Guam; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Kathleen Thomas, like her highly respected
5 mother Sally, has also been an educator at San Vicente, Santa Barbara,
6 Maria Ulloa Elementary School, and with the Department of Education as a
7 CRT at F.B. Leon Guerrero Middle School; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, Kathleen Thomas has served on many task forces and
9 professional groups including being an officer for the Guam Association of
10 Social Workers and a Board member for Guma Mami, Inc, Payu-ta, and
11 Micronesian Youth Services Network (MYSN); and,

12 **WHEREAS**, Kate’s outstanding contributions to the community are
13 well known and acknowledged. In 2005, she was awarded the Community
14 Service Award of the Department of Public Health and Social Services
15 Employee Recognition Program; and,

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, Kate was once again acknowledged for her
17 volunteerism when she was awarded the prestigious Public Citizens Award
18 from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Guam Chapter,
19 and the Governor's MagHope Award of Excellence later that same year;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
22 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize Kathleen Thelma
23 Thomas for her many dedicated years of service in the social work field, for
24 touching the lives of so many people, for being an inspiration to all who
25 knew her, and for being a true example of all that is good; and be it further

26 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
27 attest to, the adoption thereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter

1 transmitted to her siblings Sarah, Carmelita, Angelina, Steven, and her
2 daughter Kathleen Benavente and to the Honorable Eddie B. Calvo, *I*
3 *Magalahen Guahan*.

4 DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA
5 LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS 21ST DAY OF MARCH 2011.

6

7

8

9

10 Benjamin J.F. Cruz

11 Vice Speaker

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Legislative Secretary