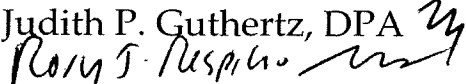
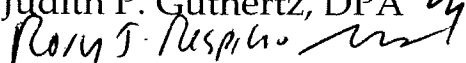


I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

2011 Nov 23
July 12: 10

Resolution No. 182-31(LS)

Introduced by:

Judith P. Guthertz, DPA 


Relative to recognizing the completion of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C., a long overdue tribute to a true leader who serves as a shining example as Guam seeks its appropriate full recognition as a member of the American family. As Reverend King's dream is finally realized in tangible form, Guam's dream remains unrealized.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, this week marks the opening of the Martin Luther King
4 National Memorial along the Tidal Basin in our nation's capital, Washington,
5 D.C.; and

6 **WHEREAS**, during the 1950s and '60s, as America's foremost civil
7 rights leader, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was able to take great
8 strides in achieving voting rights for African-American citizens, who had long
9 been denied this fundamental element of our society; and

1 **WHEREAS**, while Reverend King and his followers and supporters
2 were able to win victories in voting rights in many American states, to this
3 day in 2011, the citizens of the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territory of
4 Guam continue to be disenfranchised from national elections; and

5 **WHEREAS**, due to our failure to achieve political status on par with
6 most of the United States, American citizens resident in Guam continue to be
7 denied the fundamental right to have a say in selecting our national leaders;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, although Guam has been treated as U.S. soil since it was
10 taken from the Spanish Crown by force of arms in 1898, its citizens were long
11 subjected to rule by the U.S. military which could be, at the whim of
12 individual commanders, arbitrary and capricious, much as were many local
13 governments in the mainland United States in which persons of color were
14 denied a say by systematic disenfranchisement; and

15 **WHEREAS**, it was only after a long history of American military rule,
16 interrupted by Japanese seizure of Guam and harsh treatment at the hands of
17 that country during World War II, that the people of Guam were 'allowed' to
18 elect a Governor and Legislature to represent them; and

19 **WHEREAS**, we do not enjoy the ironclad Constitutional civil rights
20 guaranteed to other American citizens; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the elements that reflect the honorable legacy of Dr. King
22 and his living teachings are seen in current events that are unfolding on

1 Guam, including the exercise of civic responsibility by our citizens in response
2 to the present military buildup; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia has seized upon the occasion of the
4 new Martin Luther King Memorial to press for voting rights for the residents
5 of Washington, D.C. through a change in political status, possibly statehood;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, in the spirit of Reverend King, Guam will redouble its
8 efforts to capture and enjoy the civil rights enjoyed by other Americans. As
9 Reverend King said in 1969, "We shall overcome because the arc of the moral
10 universe is long, but it bends toward justice." now, therefore, be it

11 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, does
12 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the
13 opening of the Martin Luther King National Memorial and Guam's parallel
14 pursuit of the continuing legacy of enhanced voter rights that is Reverend
15 King's legacy; and be it further

16 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
17 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter
18 transmitted to the Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of Washington, D.C.;
19 and to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Delegate to the United
20 States Congress; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'laha*
21 *Guåhan*.

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

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary