

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

Resolution No. 202 -31 (COR)

Introduced by:

R.J. RESPICIO
J.P. GUTHERTZ, DPA

Relative to commending Dr. Mary L. Spencer on the occasion of her retirement from the University of Guam and to expressing a most sincere Un Dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'åse' for her outstanding contributions and continued service to our island and people.

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary L. Spencer born in Wichita, Kansas in 1942 and studied Psychology and Sociology at Wichita State University, the University of Kansas, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of New Mexico by 1970; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary L. Spencer taught at the University of Hawaii as an Assistant Professor of Psychology for two years before moving to the San Francisco Bay Area where she conducted research in cross-cultural and bilingual education for the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Dr. Mary L. Spencer first traveled to Guam to teach language assessment and approaches to bilingual education instruction to a group of teachers from Guam and the outer islands of Micronesia, at the invitation of Dr. Robert Underwood; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary L. Spencer returned to Guam in 1983 to serve as the Assessment and Evaluation Specialist for the Bilingual Education Resource Center for the Micronesian region, the grant for which was awarded to the University of

Guam by the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Mary L. Spencer ultimately became the director of the center, which was later known as Project BEAM (Bilingual Education and Assistance in Micronesia) from December 1987 through December 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Dr. Mary L. Spencer was appointed to a tenure track position with the University of Guam as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. In 1988, Dr. Mary L. Spencer was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure. In 1993, she was promoted to Professor of Psychology, which was later amended to Professor of Psychology and Micronesian Studies; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Dr. Mary L. Spencer helped establish the Micronesian Language Institute at the University of Guam and served as its director until 1997, during which time she collaborated and researched the languages of Guam and Micronesia with noted scholars like Dr. Rosa Palomo, Marylee P. Palomares, Rosa Huffer Tacheliol, Alvios William and Usha Prasad. During this time, Dr. Mary L. Spencer wrote or edited five books dedicated to the study of the language and orthography of the region, and also edited ISLA: Journal of Micronesian Studies and submitted several chapters to many other books related to her field of study; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary L. Spencer also worked closely with the Department of Education to develop oral language proficiency assessment instruments and developed the first FSM National Standardized Tests of Achievement working with testing and assessment specialists in the Federated States of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 Dr. Mary L. Spencer was promoted to dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which was later renamed the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and served for 13 years before resigning to return to her faculty position in the Micronesian Language Institute, now located in the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC); and

1 **WHEREAS**, during her tenure as dean, Dr. Mary L. Spencer wrote the first
2 NIH-funded Campus Suicide Prevention Grant and served as its Acting Director
3 during its first year. She also supported numerous programs for students while
4 strengthening the infrastructure and resources within the College. Dr. Mary L.
5 Spencer participated in the development of the new Master of Arts in English, the
6 Graduate Certificate in Micronesian Studies, and the Master of Science in Clinical
7 Psychology degrees and provided continuous support for the College's research
8 conferences such as the Annual College Research Conference, the Annual
9 Regional Language Arts Conference, and the Annual CHamoru Language
10 Competition; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Mary L. Spencer continues her research in to the
12 languages of Micronesia and contributes to the Center for Excellence in
13 Developmental Disabilities Education, Research & Service (CEDDERS), is a
14 member of the Editorial Boards of the *Micronesian Educator: A Journal of*
15 *Research and Practice on Education in Guam and Micronesia*, and *Pacific Asia*
16 *Inquiry*, supervises several graduate students in Micronesian Studies, and serves on
17 the doctoral dissertation committee at Indiana University of Pennsylvania of a
18 Guam scholar, while maintaining her role on the Advisory Board of ISLA Center
19 for the Arts; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on the occasion of Dr. Mary L. Spencer's retirement from the
21 University of Guam where she has served as an exemplary member of the faculty
22 and administration for 28 years; now, therefore, be it

23 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina' Trentai Unu Na*
24 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
25 people of Guam, join in thanking Dr. Mary L. Spencer for her outstanding
26 contributions to the academic reputation of the University of Guam and for her
27 commitment to the people of Guam and Micronesia; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
2 Rules certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof,
3 and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to copies of the same be
4 thereafter transmitted to Dr. Mary L. Spencer and to the Honorable Edward Baza
5 Calvo, *I Maga'Låhen Guåhan*.

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

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary