

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) REGULAR SESSION

Resolution No. 288-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, PhD

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

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

WHEREAS, during his first career as a seaman in the United States Navy, Mr. Juan "John" Blas Perez dedicated his life to the protection and service of the nation, and later to the students, faculty and community at the University of Guam as part of the UOG Library Audio-Visual Division — for a total of forty-four (44) years; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Perez was born June 24, 1949 in the village of Barrigada to the late Manuel Baltasar Martinez Perez and Efigenia Blas Perez; and is the second eldest of eight (8) children, including June,

1 Bernadette, Joseph, Julie, Barbara, Marie, and Carmen; and is the proud
2 father of Katrina Antoinette Perez; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from George Washington High School
4 in 1967, the eighteen (18) year old, joined the US Navy on June 28, 1967 and
5 served a tour in Viet Nam; first, being assigned to combat store ship USS
6 *Aludra* (AF-55) before serving on shore at Camp Tien Shaw in Da Nang,
7 Viet Nam, providing supplies to the US Navy and US Marines; and,

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

12 **WHEREAS**, it was on the USS *Marvin Shields* that Mr. Perez served as
13 acting division officer of the Engine and Fire Room, responsible for 150
14 people; and as the ship was out to sea for a six-month tour, starting in the
15 Western Pacific and navigating in open waters to the Indian Ocean and
16 back to its homeport in San Diego, California; that the ship lost its water
17 distilling plant, which was vital to operations and life on board; and, over
18 the next forty-eight (48) hours, Mr. Perez, a Senior Chief Petty Officer,
19 worked tirelessly to repair the machine responsible for providing water to
20 run the ship's power plant boilers and to sustain life: provide water for
21 drinking, cooking and sanitation; for this, the ship's captain bestowed a
22 Navy Commendation Award upon Mr. Perez for his heroic efforts in
23 saving the ship; and,

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

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

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

20 **WHEREAS**, after twenty-two (22) years of service as a navy power
21 plant control man and refrigeration mechanic, and at the rank of Master
22 Chief Petty Officer (E-9), the highest achievable rank for a non-
23 commissioned officer, Mr. Perez retired from the US Navy in February

1 1990 and would return to Guam, where he would begin his second career
2 at the University of Guam; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, in October 1990, Mr. Perez began working at the
4 University of Guam after successfully interviewing for a position as a
5 Library Technician I at the University of Guam Library; in June 1993, Mr.
6 Perez became a multi-media technician for the library's Audio-Visual
7 Division; and,

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

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

1 **WHEREAS**, over the years, Mr. Perez has received formal
2 recognition and commendations from the university for his participation
3 and efforts during biannual graduation ceremonies, the annual Liberation
4 Day Parade, the annual UOG Charter Day celebrations, quarterly UOG
5 Board of Regents meetings, and all the multi-media support needs of the
6 university on and off campus; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez has served under the last five UOG
8 presidents, including Dr. Wilfred Leon Guerrero, Dr. John Salas, Dr. Jose
9 Nededog, Dr. Harold Allen and Dr. Robert Underwood; and worked with
10 the late Dr. Jeff Barcinas, former vice president of University and
11 Community Engagement for the University of Guam; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Perez is active in Barrigada village's Catholic parish
13 serving as a lector and Eucharistic Minister; and, also shared his love of
14 music with the entire community as an active member of The Island
15 Choralers men's choir from 1970 to 2010 where he also served as choir
16 director from 2007 to 2010; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on
18 behalf of the people of Guam does hereby, recognize and commend Mr.
19 Juan "John" Blas Perez on the occasion of his retirement from the
20 University of Guam, and extends heartfelt thanks for his dedicated and
21 exceptional service to the University of Guam students, faculty and island
22 community for the past twenty-two (22) years; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee
2 on Rules certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attests to, the adoption
3 hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Juan
4 Blas Perez; and to the Honorable Eddie Baza Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

5

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

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.

Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Secretary of the Legislature

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