

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

**Resolution No.** 466 -31 (Cop)

Introduced by:

Judith T. Wen Pat, Ed.D.  
B.J.F. Cruz  
T.R. Muña Barnes  
Adolpho B. Palacios Sr.

2012 JUL -6 AM 9:19

**Relative to honoring and memorializing the late Honorable Miguel Sablan Demapan, Chief Justice Miguel Sablan Demapan, in recognition of his dedicated service to the Commonwealth Judiciary and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and his commitment to the preservation of peace and justice; and to further extending sincere condolences to his family on his passing.**

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

**WHEREAS,** Miguel Sablan Demapan, the late Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, was born on Saipan, to Micaela Atalig Sablan and Gregorio Deleon Guerrero Demapan; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief Justice Demapan was respected and admired by all members of the Justices and Associate Judges as a person of the highest integrity who walked humbly in his unselfish dedication to the rule of law and the public he served, and in his loyalty to his colleagues and staff; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief Justice Demapan was seen as the quintessential Chief Justice with a strong work ethic and commitment to the citizens of the CNMI whom he served; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief Justice Demapan, a Saipan native, graduated as class

14 valedictorian of Marianas High School in 1971, having earned his Bachelor of Science  
15 in Chemistry in 1975 from Seattle University, Washington, his Masters in Business  
16 Administration in 1983 from Golden Gate University, California, and his Juris  
17 Doctorate in 1985 from Santa Clara University, California; and

18 **WHEREAS**, on his return to Saipan, Chief Justice Demapan embarked on a  
19 legal career in private practice and as corporate legal counsel. He was thereafter  
20 appointed to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Superior Court trial  
21 bench in 1992. In 1998, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed him to the  
22 Commonwealth Supreme Court, where a year later he was sworn as Chief Justice; and

23 **WHEREAS**, not only the CNMI court system but also the courts of the entire  
24 nation have lost an exceptional jurists, innovative leader and dear friend; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan received a Doctor of Humane Letters  
26 from the University of Guam in May 2005; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan was a man of enormous intellect and great  
28 common sense, a combination that was reflected in the clarity of his opinions; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, Chief Justice Demapan received a Degree of Doctor of  
30 Laws, *honoris causa* from the Santa Clara University School of Law, California; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Chief Justice had a profound devotion for public service,  
32 leadership, and law and served as member of the Commonwealth Judicial Council,  
33 Commonwealth Law Revision Commission, Criminal Justice Planning Agency  
34 Supervisory Council, U.S. Conference of Chief Justices, Asia-Pacific Conference of  
35 Chief Justices, CNMI Federal Bench Council, World Jurist Association, and president  
36 for the Pacific Judicial Council from 2008-2011; and

37 **WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan's record illustrates his unwavering  
38 commitment to judicial restraint, judicial independence, and the rule of law; and

39 **WHEREAS**, under his firm leadership and superb managerial skills, Chief

Justice Demapan efficiently managed the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for 13 years; and

**WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body recognize that Chief Justice Demapan served with honor and integrity in his role as third Chief Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court; and

**WHEREAS**, as the leader of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Demapan was highly regarded by all of his colleagues, including those with differing judicial philosophies; and

**WHEREAS**, his former colleagues have described Chief Justice Demapan as a “splendid administrator”, “a great Chief Justice”, and “meticulously fair”; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan was the embodiment of the ideal qualities of a judge, fair, impartial, open minded, and above all committed to the Constitution and the rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan selflessly made himself available to act as a Justice *Pro Tempore* for the Supreme Court of Guam, and rendered his wisdom and assistance in many Guam Supreme Court cases, including 18 notable published cases; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan also provided invaluable assistance to the Superior Court of Guam as a Judge *Pro Tempore* in the Superior Court of Guam in the 1990s; and

**WHEREAS**, one of his most profound legacies was that of the President of the Pacific Judicial Council from 2000 to 2002, and again in 2008, and in this leadership capacity, his efforts resulted in increased training of judges and educational opportunities of court staff in the CNMI, Guam and throughout Micronesia; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Justice Demapan passed away on June 30, 2012, surrounded by his loving wife Frances Tenorio Demapan, children Michael, Patrick,

66 Frannie, Soleana, and Micaela, and his entire family; and

67       **WHEREAS**, our islands and Nation is deeply indebted to Chief Justice Miguel  
68 Sablan Demapan, a truly distinguished American and CNMI native who served the  
69 people of the Commonwealth for over 20 years; now, therefore, be it

70       **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*  
71 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people  
72 of Guam, express its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to Frances and her  
73 family for their sorrow and loss; and to honor and acknowledge Chief Justice  
74 Demapan's lifelong service to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as  
75 a talented attorney, a dedicated public servant, a brilliant jurist, and one of our  
76 Nation's greatest Chief Justices; and be it further

77       **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Committee on Rules  
78 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
79 the same be thereafter transmitted bereaved family of Chief Justice Miguel Sablan  
80 Demapan; the Honorable Eliceo "Eli" D. Cabrera, Speaker of the House; Honorable  
81 Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress;  
82 and Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern  
83 Mariana Islands; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo , *I Maga Lahen Guåhan*.

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

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**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**  
Speaker

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**RORY J. RESPICIO**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Legislative Secretary