

I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Resolutions Log Sheet

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Referred	Committee / Ofc Referred	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	Date Adopted
216-33 (LS)	N. B. Underwood, Ph.D.	Relative to recognizing and honoring the late Mr. Jose Mata Torres for his heroism, courage, and leadership; for his lifetime of accomplishments and many years of dedication to the culture, the language, and the people of Guam; and to further extending sincere condolences to his family on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guåhan and the people of Guam.	10/20/15 9:21 A.m.	10/21/2015 5:30 p.m.					10/20/15

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2015 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 216-33 (LS)

Introduced by:

N. B. Underwood, Ph.D.

R. J. Respicio

T. C. Ada

V. Anthony Ada

FRANK B. AGUON, JR.

Frank F. Blas, Jr.

B. J.F. Cruz

James V. Espaldon

Brant T. McCreadie

Tommy Morrison

T. R. Muña Barnes

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas

Mary Camacho Torres

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and honoring the late Mr. Jose Mata Torres for his heroism, courage, and leadership; for his lifetime of accomplishments and many years of dedication to the culture, the language, and the people of Guam; and to further extending sincere condolences to his family on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Mr. Jose Mata Torres, also known as “Doc” Torres, was
4 born on November 25, 1926, in the village of *Malessó* and was a lifelong resident of

1 the village until he was called to eternal life on Monday, September 28, 2015, at the
2 age of eighty-eight (88); and

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Doc Torres is the son of †Jose D. Torres and †Nieves
4 Manalisay Mata Torres and the eldest brother of Vicente M. Torres, †Enrique Torres,
5 Asuncion T. Cruz, Josephine T. Breen, †Maria T. Chargualaf, †Beatrice T. Lujan, and
6 †Jesus Torres; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the late Doc Torres married †Carmen Lizama Torres, originally
8 of Saipan and then later of *Malesso*’, in 1961, and they had two daughters, Rita
9 Benavente, married to Joe D. Benavente, and Carmelita Reyes, married to Dominic
10 Reyes. Doc Torres’s love extended to all of his grandchildren, to include: Jacinta B.
11 & Jarett Elm, Joe Davy Benavente Jr. & Daisy Conceicao, Joseph T. Benavente, Dean
12 Naputi, Sophia Naputi, Victoria Reyes, Candice Reyes, Ashley Reyes, and Madison
13 Reyes. As well, Doc Torres’ knowledge and compassion reached all of his great-
14 grandchildren, to include: Misah, Matthew, Messiah, Taelershay, Camaren, Teara,
15 Caela, Joziah, Ziana, Zayne, Zion, and Zoey; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the late Doc Torres was 15 years old when the Japanese invaded
17 and occupied Guam. In July 1944, after the round up and massacres of other *Malesso*’
18 women and men at Tinta and Fâha, he joined with other men from the village of
19 *Malesso*’, and under the leadership of Jose “Tonko” Reyes, banded together to kill and
20 escape from the Japanese troops who were holding Doc Torres, the other men, and
21 their families captive in the concentration camp in Atâte; and

22 **WHEREAS**, following the uprising at *Atâte*, Doc Torres joined five (5) others
23 (Jesus Barcinas, Antonio Leon Guerrero Cruz, Joaquin Chargualaf Manalisay, Juan
24 Meno Garrido, and Juan Atoigue Cruz) who paddled a canoe to send word to the USS
25 Wadsworth off *Malesso*’ about the Japanese atrocities. Later, a second canoe of five
26 more men from *Malesso*’ (Jesus Cruz Anderson, Tomas Tajalle, Felipe Santiago Cruz,

1 Jesus Cruz Castro, and Joaquin Cruz Barcinas - the youngest brother of Jesus
2 Barcinas) paddled out to seek for help from the naval ships off of *Malessso*’; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Doc Torres attended schools in *Malessso*’ and *Hagåtña*, and after
4 the war, eventually attended and graduated from St. John Fisher College in Pittsford, a
5 suburb of Rochester, New York; and

6 **WHEREAS**, after the war, Doc Torres was among several *Chamorros*,
7 including Jose Salas (who later became an orthopedic surgeon), who attended the US
8 Naval Medical Practitioner Training at the Government Medical School in *Tamuning*.
9 It was after the Government Medical School was discontinued that Doc Torres
10 attended St. John Fisher College in Pittsford in Rochester, New York; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Doc Torres worked for twenty years, until he retired in 1986, as a
12 US Civil Service employee of the US National Institutes of Health and specifically,
13 the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke
14 (NINCDS) research team. Here, Doc Torres collaborated with top US neurologists
15 who were studying Guam’s high incidences of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and
16 Parkinsonism-Dementia Complex, also known as Lytico-Bodig or ALS-PDC; and

17 **WHEREAS**, from his medical training and college education, Doc Torres was
18 able to practice as a medic and conduct research for a number of years in Guam,
19 Saipan, and throughout Micronesia. It was in Saipan that Doc Torres met his beloved
20 wife, †Carmen, and because of his work, he also became endearingly known as “Doc
21 Torres”; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in 1995, Doc Torres began hosting a weekly radio show
23 “Classical Concert” on Guam’s public radio station KPRG. On his show, Doc Torres
24 would share his love of classical music with the island, frequently expressing his joy
25 for it in the Chamorro language. Doc Torres retired his show in 2015, after 20 years
26 on the air, and named a “living legend” by the crew at KPRG; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, Doc Torres was interviewed as a featured guest on the
2 internationally syndicated show “Exploring Music” with Bill McGlaughlin. He
3 discussed the beauty of Guam, his experiences during the Japanese occupation and his
4 love of classical music; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, Doc Torres was chosen as a guest conductor for the
6 Guam Symphony Society during the show *The Music and Legends of Guam* at the
7 Aurora Resort in Tumon. Doc Torres fulfilled a life-long dream of his when he
8 conducted the Guam Symphony Orchestra in their performance of Tchaikovsky’s
9 *March Slav*; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Doc Torres for all his years was an advocate for healthy living
11 and made many friends through farming, fishing, walking a forgotten path from
12 *Malesso*’ shore to *Cocos* Island, coastal walking from *Inarajan* to *Talofof*, hiking
13 *Geus* river in *Malesso*’, daily biking to other villages, gym exercises, and much more;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, Doc Torres was deeply concerned about the threatened loss of the
16 *Chamorro* language and advocated, above all else, unprecedented action to re-trench
17 the *Chamorro* language through its use in government functions, at classical music
18 events, in theater, at political gatherings, and at home with family; and

19 **WHEREAS**, while Doc Torres was extremely humble, he felt it his duty to
20 share his lifetime of experiences with the youth of Guam and with the world, always
21 paying tribute to the suffering endured by *Chamorros*, his love for his family, the
22 leadership of Tonko Reyes, and the courage of his fellow villagers. He was on many
23 occasions interviewed in Guam magazines and newspapers, especially on the
24 anniversary of the end of World War II. In 2015, Doc Torres (at the age of 88)
25 commanded computers and emerging technology to publish the memoir of his war
26 experiences, entitled “*Massacre at Atâte*.” In his memoir, Doc Torres documented not

1 only his own World War II story but also the heroism of his fellow villagers who
2 despite years of forced labor, starvation, lack of medical care, and tremendous fear
3 fought the Japanese and liberated themselves and their families, ensuring that future
4 generations will be able to read and appreciate their story; and

5 **WHEREAS**, through his memoir, Doc Torres described the village of *Malessó*'
6 with loving detail, as a world of its own, where every aspect of the village thrived and
7 where the farmers, fishermen, and educators of *Malessó*' created a kind of
8 synchronism and self-sufficiency that was unique to this southern *Chamorro* village
9 and of which he was very proud; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Doc Torres truly believed in the power of *Chamorro* language,
11 always insisting on its use, and ultimately, succeeded in being a key practitioner of
12 *Chamorro* in his time, especially to aid in the progress and development of medicine
13 for the *Chamorro* people; and

14 **WHEREAS**, with the death of Jose Mata Torres, the people of Guam bid *Adios*
15 *Esta Ki Umali'e' Hit Ta'lo* to the last of the heroic *Malessó*' Rebels, to a beloved and
16 humble leader, to a shining example of *Chamorro* courage and strength in the face of
17 severe adversity, *Chamorro* ingenuity and resourcefulness in an ever changing world,
18 and the unabashed love and joy of *Chamorros* for family and village; and now
19 therefore, be it

20 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
21 on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize and honor the
22 late Mr. Jose Mata Torres for his heroism, courage, and leadership, and for his lifetime
23 of accomplishments and many years of dedication to the culture, the language and the
24 people of Guam; and does further extend sincere condolences to his family on behalf
25 of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
2 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Rita
3 Benavente; to Ms. Carmelita Reyes; to the Honorable Ernest T. Chargualaf, Mayor of
4 *Malesso*; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'låhen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 20TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2015.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary