

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
302-33 (COR)	Frank F. Blas, Jr. V. Anthony Ada T. C. Ada FRANK B. AGUON, JR.	Relative to encouraging the United States Congress to introduce and adopt legislation that would create a special category that provides increased compensation for Veterans residing on Guam and other geographically-challenged areas in the Pacific.	03/02/16 3:18 p.m.		03/03/16	The Sponsor	04/07/16 5:30 p.m.	04/21/16 10:09 a.m.	05/03/16



I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

The 33rd Guam Legislature
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May 9, 2016

The Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo
I Maga'låhen Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'låhi
Hagåtña, Guam

Dear *Maga'låhi* Calvo:

Transmitted herewith is **Resolution No. 302-33 (COR)**, “Relative to encouraging the United States Congress to introduce and adopt legislation that would increase compensation for Veterans residing on Guam and other geographically-challenged areas in the Pacific for costs associated with obtaining treatment that is routinely available to all other U.S. Veterans,” which was duly and regularly adopted by *I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on May 3, 2016.

Sincerely,

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (1)

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2016 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 302-33 (COR)

As amended by the Sponsor; and
further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
V. Anthony Ada
T. C. Ada
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.
B. J.F. Cruz
James V. Espaldon
Brant T. McCreadie
Tommy Morrison
T. R. Muña Barnes
R. J. Respicio
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Mary Camacho Torres
N. B. Underwood, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to encouraging the United States Congress to introduce and adopt legislation that would increase compensation for Veterans residing on Guam and other geographically-challenged areas in the Pacific for costs associated with obtaining treatment that is routinely available to all other U.S. Veterans.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**
3 **WHEREAS**, men and women of Guam and the Pacific Region have given
4 unselfishly and patriotically of themselves so that we can enjoy the freedoms we
5 have today; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the
2 Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall
3 Islands, and American Samoa, have had the most soldiers, per capita, killed in our
4 nation's current war on terror than any other jurisdiction in the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, during the Vietnam conflict, there were more soldiers from
6 Guam, also per capita, that were killed in that war than from any other U.S. state or
7 territory; and

8 **WHEREAS**, during World War II, Guam was the only United States
9 possession that was occupied by enemy forces; and

10 **WHEREAS**, although we will never have the opportunity to repay those who
11 have gone before us the debt we owe for their ultimate sacrifice, we can begin to
12 make good for those who are still with us; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides monthly
14 benefits to Veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries
15 incurred or aggravated during their active military service; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans
17 with disabilities; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the
19 Veterans disability rating on a scale from ten percent (10%) to one hundred percent
20 (100%) (in increments of ten percent); and

21 **WHEREAS**, compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are
22 considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service; and for
23 disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though
24 they may arise after service; and

25 **WHEREAS**, generally, the degrees of disability rating specified are also
26 designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or
27 illnesses; and

1 **WHEREAS**, although for many years our Pacific Region’s Veterans have
2 waited patiently for the treatment and services afforded to their comrades elsewhere,
3 their patience should no longer be taken for granted; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the current level of service rendered by the federal government
5 to our Veterans is not only a disservice to the American Veterans who choose to
6 reside on Guam, and other geographically-challenged regions, such as the
7 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the
8 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and American
9 Samoa, but a disservice to all of America’s Veterans who have fought for our
10 freedom; and

11 **WHEREAS**, since 1988, Guam has been classified as a medically
12 underserved area by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This
13 classification recognizes that our healthcare system does not have the ability and full
14 capability of meeting our island’s healthcare needs; and

15 **WHEREAS**, while the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has taken great
16 strides to increase and improve the services for Veterans, many of these services are
17 not available in our Pacific Region and for this reason our Veterans often have to
18 travel by air, thousands of miles from their homes, to obtain their medical assistance
19 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and

20 **WHEREAS**, although the Veterans’ treatment and even airfare is funded by
21 the U.S. government, there are numerous other costs associated with obtaining off-
22 island medical treatment while maintaining their residences on their islands; and

23 **WHEREAS**, while generally the disability rating that a Veteran receives is
24 tied to the mental or physical disability he or she suffers from, the time difference
25 and distance that a Veteran from our region has to travel to access services should
26 be recognized as an additional factor that the Veteran has to contend with; now
27 therefore, be it

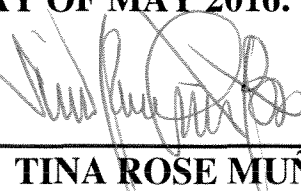
1 **RESOLVED**, that due to the financial burden imposed on our Veterans of the
2 Pacific region, *I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf
3 of the people of Guam, urge the U.S. Congress to introduce and pass legislation that
4 would allow for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to include a mechanism to
5 compensate our Veterans for the costs associated with obtaining treatment that is
6 routinely available to all other U.S. veterans not living in geographically-
7 disadvantaged areas; and that the legislation should include language that ensures
8 that Veterans who later relocate away from their previously geographically-
9 disadvantaged area will no longer receive the additional benefit; and be it further

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
11 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
12 Honorable Madeleine Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the U.S. Congress; to the
13 Honorable Rob Wittman, Congressman from the state of Virginia; to the U.S.
14 Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Guam Veterans Affairs Office; and to the
15 Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'låhen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 3RD DAY OF MAY 2016.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary

LEGISLATIVE SESSION VOTING RECORD

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN

2016 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 302-33 (COR)

As amended by the Sponsor; and further amended on the Floor.

Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall

May 3, 2016

NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator Thomas "Tom" ADA	✓					
Senator V. Anthony "Tony" ADA	✓					
Senator Frank B. AGUON, Jr.	✓					
Senator Frank F. BLAS, Jr.	✓					
Vice-Speaker Benjamin J.F. CRUZ	✓					
Senator James V. ESPALDON	✓					
Senator Brant T. McCREADIE	✓					
Senator Thomas "Tommy" MORRISON	✓					
Senator Tina Rose MUÑA BARNES	✓					
Senator Rory J. RESPICIO	✓					
Senator Dennis G. RODRIGUEZ, Jr.	✓					
Senator Michael F.Q. SAN NICOLAS	✓					
Senator Mary Camacho TORRES	✓					
Senator Nerissa B. UNDERWOOD, Ph.D.	✓					
Speaker Judith T. WON PAT, Ed.D.	✓					

TOTAL:

15

0

Aye

Nay

Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

Absent

Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:

Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass