

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2006 (SECOND) Regular Session

Executive Committee Resolution No. (151)

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio
B.J. Cruz

Relative to honoring and commending Maria Cruz Guzman, the first full-time and longest serving employee of The Salvation Army, Guam, for her thirteen years of service assisting the most unfortunate members of our island community and to extend to her a heartfelt *dangkolo' na si Yu'os ma'åse* on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, for the past thirteen (13) years and more, Maria Cruz Guzman of Sinajana has dedicated her life to assisting the most needy people in Guam as a loyal and valued employee of The Salvation Army, Guam; and

WHEREAS, Maria's seemingly bottomless well of compassion and affection for those in unfortunate circumstances may have grown from her own experiences because she is no stranger to disaster, having suffered personal losses as a result of the destruction of Supertyphoon Omar in 1992; and

WHEREAS, losing her job at Mark's Department Store as a result of Omar's strike, Maria registered with the Agency for Human Resources and Development (AHRD) and she was offered a temporary position to help with disaster outreach with The Salvation Army, saying that since she had been working with clothing, she thought she would enjoy giving out clothes to people in need after the typhoon; and

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WHEREAS, her co-workers and supervisors recognized immediately that Maria was a perfect fit for The Salvation Army, having the empathy, kindness and concern that is a valued hallmark of the organization, and she was offered a permanent position at the conclusion of her six-month appointment, becoming The Salvation Army Guam's first full-time employee; and

WHEREAS, during her years of service at The Salvation Army Guam, Maria's duties expanded to include so many more than giving out clothes to people in need, including preparing lunch and snacks for volunteers, distributing bottled water and snacks, assisting clients in filling out intake applications, preparing materials for volunteers, serving as office manager, receptionist, thrift store clerk, food pantry operator, disaster worker, bell-ringer, as well as other basic office and maintenance duties; and

WHEREAS, from 1992 to the present, Maria has been an active participant in The Salvation Army's humanitarian efforts following natural and man-made disasters, including the "Great 'Quake" of 1993, the influx of Kurdish refugees in 1995, Typhoon Dale in 1996, Typhoons Isa, Keith and Supertyphoon Paka in 1997, the crash of Korean Airlines KAL 801 in 1997, Typhoons Mitag, Chata'an and Supertyphoon Pongsona in 2002, and the Homeless Count conducted in 2003, 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, when Maria first joined The Salvation Army, before there were enough volunteers to handle all of their clients, she would bring her sons Charles, Troy, Mark and James to assist her with big projects and make sure that their clients always received the best possible service; and

WHEREAS, Maria ensured that the offices conveyed a warm, friendly, family atmosphere, making clients feel comfortable and at ease even during the most difficult times, and she became such a fixture at The

Salvation Army Guam that clients would ask for her by name, her reputation of always listening, offering a smile when needed, and making sure that people's needs were met serving to enhance The Salvation Army's reputation; and

WHEREAS, Maria, who is the daughter of the late Trinidad C. Cruz of Piti, is married to James C. Guzman, retired military, and they are planning to spend their retirement on the mainland; and

WHEREAS, her 13 years of service to many of the most needy and unfortunate members of our community have been exemplary and deserve recognition on the occasion of her retirement; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, honor and commend Maria Cruz Guzman for her 13 years of service to our island community through The Salvation Army Guam, and does also extend a heartfelt *dangkolo' na si Yu'os ma'åse* on the occasion of her well-deserved retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Maria Cruz Guzman, to The Salvation Army Guam and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF APRIL 2006.