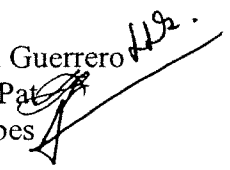


MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 811(E)

Introduced by:

L.A. Leon Guerrero
J.T. Won Pat
Mark Forbes



Relative to recognizing the month of October 2005 as “Family Violence Awareness Month” and to commending practitioners and advocates who help raise awareness and support victims of family violence as well as the significant contributions these individuals and organizations have made, and continue to make, in their efforts to reduce the crime of family violence.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:

WHEREAS, family violence is a physical, sexual, emotional or verbal violence directed against a person who is the abuser’s intimate partner or relative; and

WHEREAS, family violence affects people regardless of age, sexual orientation, physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, culture, education, religion, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, children in homes, where abuse among adults occurs, are often neglected at a rate of fifteen hundred percent (1,500%) higher than the national average in the general population; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children from violent homes have higher risks of alcohol or drug abuse and juvenile delinquency; are six (6) times more likely to commit suicide; twenty four (24) times more likely to commit sexual assault crimes and seventy four (74) times more likely to commit these crimes; and fifty (50) times more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol; and

WHEREAS, children in abusive homes carry terrible experiences of violence with them into adulthood and to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2004, there were more than one thousand three hundred thirty-six (1,336) cases of abuse and neglect referred to the Child Protective Services at the Department of Public Health and Social Services, of which more than one hundred twenty-six (126) cases were directly related to family violence; and

1 **WHEREAS**, four hundred ninety-five (495) family violence cases were reported to the
2 Guam Police Department in Fiscal Year 2005, and statistics reveal a total of more than two hundred
3 forty-two (242) individuals arrested for family violence; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Guam Police Department statistics also show family violence-related offenses
5 included more than seven (7) cases of aggravated assault, involving the use of weapons and resulting
6 in injury; over forty-five (45) assault cases, one hundred sixty-one (161) reported disturbances, over
7 thirty-five (35) reported harassment and miscellaneous cases, and over two hundred twenty-six (226)
8 classified as family violence; and

9 **WHEREAS**, family violence is often ignored and tolerated by our society, where many
10 victims feel isolated, ashamed, and even responsible for the abuse, often blaming themselves; and

11 **WHEREAS**, many men and women are reluctant to admit to the incidence of violence and
12 are reluctant to seek help beyond their families, and that experts believe that actual prevalence of
13 family violence is much higher than statistics indicate; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in Fiscal Year 2005, Adult Protective Services, a Division of the Department
15 of Public Health and Social Services, has received over one hundred fifty-seven (157) referrals
16 recently, most of which were the result of abuse to our island’s elderly and disabled; and

17 **WHEREAS**, family violence is a major contributing factor to numerous other problems,
18 including child neglect, alcoholism, homelessness, mental illness, and attempted suicide; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, STOP VAW subgrantees,
20 government and non-government organizations, faith-based organizations, and other community
21 partners have joined forces to directly confront this crisis, including: Alee Shelter – Catholic Social
22 Services; Anderson Family Support Services – Fleet & Family Support Services; Archdiocese of
23 Agana; Attorney General of Guam – Department of Law, Crime Victim Response Unit; Department
24 of Corrections – Parole Division/Training; Department of Education; Department of Mental Health
25 & Substance Abuse – Healing Hearts Crisis Center (HHCC); Department of Public Health & Social
26 Services; Department of Youth Affairs; Erica’s House – Visitation Center; Governor’s Community
27 Outreach – Federal Programs Office; Governor’s Legal Counsel; Guam Housing and Urban Renewal
28 Authority; Guam Judiciary; Guam Legislature; Guam Police Department – Victim Assistance Unit;
29 Guma’Mami, Inc.; Inafa’Maolek; Mayor’s Counsel; Media; Mother’s Against Drunk Driving
30 (“MADD”); Public Defender Service Corporation; Superior Court of Guam – Client Services and

1 Family Counseling Division; Judicial Council; Superior Court of Guam – Probation and Marshals
2 Divisions; Sanctuary Inc.; University of Guam; and the Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO);
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, the effort, compassion, and dedication of these volunteers, professionals, and
5 organizations should be recognized and applauded; now therefore be it

6 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
7 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the month of October 2005 as “Family Violence
8 Awareness Month”, and does commend the practitioners and advocates who help raise
9 awareness and support victims of family violence, as well as the significant contributions
10 these individuals and organizations have made, and continue to make, in their efforts to
11 reduce the crime of family violence; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attests to, the adoption
13 hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the members of the “Family Violence
14 Awareness Month” Task Force; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

15

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2005.

Mark Forbes
Speaker

Eddie Calvo
Senator and Legislative Secretary