

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

Executive Committee
Resolution No. 204

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Dr. David L.G. Shimizu
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Edward J.B. Calvo
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A. B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Ray Tenorio
J. T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to commending and congratulating the Navy Nurse Corps on its One Hundredth (100th) Birthday and recognizing their outstanding contributions to the United States Navy, the Nation, and the people of Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I**
2 ***MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS, on May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the**
4 **Naval Appropriations Bill, authorizing the establishment of the Nurse Corps**
5 **as a unique staff corps of the U.S. Navy. The first applications to the Nurse**
6 **Corps were sent by women from around the nation to the Bureau of Medicine**

1 and Surgery. Candidates were required to travel to Washington, D.C., at their
2 own expense and take oral and written examinations; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the first members of the Nurse Corps included
4 Superintendent Ms. Esther Hasson, Chief Nurse Ms. Lenah Higbee, and
5 eighteen (18) other women. These women, known as the "Sacred Twenty",
6 established the foundation of service and caring that defines the Navy Nurse
7 Corps; and

8 **WHEREAS**, at the beginning of World War I, the Navy Nurse Corps
9 included one hundred sixty (160) nurses. By the 1918 Armistice, the Nurse
10 Corps had grown to over one thousand (1000) nurses. As the war drew to a
11 close that year, more people died from Spanish Influenza than from combat,
12 and when the disease appeared in the United States, health providers could
13 only treat the symptoms, which included the added complication of
14 pneumonia. Over one hundred twenty thousand (120,000) Navy and Marine
15 patients were admitted at Navy medical facilities to be cared for by Navy
16 Nurses. Thirty-one (31) Navy nurses died of the disease; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in 1921, eleven (11) Navy nurses reported aboard the USS
18 RELIEF. They were the first female military nurses to serve aboard a hospital
19 ship. Several years later, during the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, a field
20 hospital from USS RELIEF was established in the city to provide humanitarian
21 support, and Navy Nurses were there to provide care; and

22 **WHEREAS**, on December 7, 1941, the United States Navy suffered a
23 devastating loss when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor (the attack still represents
24 the U.S. Navy's greatest disaster). In just over two (2) hours, much of the

1 Pacific Fleet was destroyed or seriously damaged. Seven (7) battleships that
2 once projected U.S. might and prestige either lay on the bottom of the harbor
3 or were too crippled to be of any immediate use. The Navy lost over two
4 thousand three hundred (2,300) men and many more were injured. The USS
5 SOLACE (AH-5), the Navy's newest hospital ship, was there. On board the
6 SOLACE was LTJG Grace Lally, who organized the twelve (12) other nurses
7 aboard the SOLACE. The ship's nursing staff treated three hundred twenty
8 seven (327) burn cases, working three (3) full days without sleep. LTG Lally
9 would later recall, "We could hear the fighting raging outside and wondered
10 what was happening. But our job was inside the ship, and there we stayed for
11 ten (10) days"; and

12 **WHEREAS**, three (3) days after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 10,
13 1941, five (5) Navy Nurses were captured on Guam and sent to a military
14 prison at Zentusji, Japan. They were released eight (8) months later and
15 returned to the United States. Shortly after the New Year in 1942, eleven (11)
16 Nurses were taken prisoner by the Imperial Japanese forces in the Philippines.
17 During their thirty-seven (37) month long imprisonment, the nurses continued
18 to care for the sick and injured despite suffering from malnutrition, beri-beri,
19 and chronic dysentery; and

20 **WHEREAS**, nurses in World War II served at forty (40) naval hospitals,
21 one hundred seventy six (176) dispensaries, on board twelve (12) hospital
22 ships and as flight nurses on air evacuation missions. Throughout the war,
23 Navy nurses earned over three hundred (300) military awards for their
24 service; and

1 **WHEREAS**, during the Korean War, the Navy Nurse Corps again
2 played a pivotal role in caring for the sick and injured at twenty-six (26) naval
3 hospitals, sixty-seven (67) station hospitals and dispensaries around the globe,
4 and aboard three (3) hospital ships and eight (8) Military Sea Transport
5 Service ships. In 1951, the Nurse Corps would reach a peak of over three
6 thousand two hundred (3,200) active duty nurses; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 1965, four (4) nurses stationed in Saigon were wounded
8 in the terrorist bomb explosion at the American Officers' Quarters. Despite
9 their injuries, these nurses refused treatment until all injured service
10 personnel had been treated for their wounds. These nurses received Purple
11 Hearts, becoming the first American women awarded that medal in the
12 Vietnam War; and

13 **WHEREAS**, providing emergency and definitive medical care for Navy
14 and Marine Corps personnel became the mission of the Naval Support
15 Activity Station Hospital, which would soon become the largest land-based
16 medical facility in Vietnam. The advanced emergency hospital center was
17 designed to provide specialties not usually represented in the medical
18 battalion hospitals, such as neurosurgery, dermatology, urology, plastic
19 surgery, ophthalmology, and ENT treatment. Navy nurses served
20 prominently at the facility; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 1991, the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,
22 became the Safe Harbor for Haitian migrants. Navy nurses at Naval Hospital
23 Guantanamo Bay were called upon to screen and care for Haitian migrants on
24 board Coast Guard cutters and Navy ships. An additional camp was

1 established on base, where Navy nurses played an active role in creating a
2 ward to provide inpatient care. By the end of the year, the influx of migrants
3 increased, a Joint Task Force was established, and medical personnel from all
4 services participated in the care of over twelve thousand (12,000) Haitians;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1992, twenty-nine (29) Navy nurses were mobilized in
7 response to two (2) natural disasters: Typhoon "*Omar*" in Guam and
8 Hurricane "Andrew" in South Florida. In December 2004, when a magnitude
9 9 earthquake generated a *tsunami* that swept across the Indian Ocean and
10 wreaked devastation along the coastlines of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and
11 Thailand, killing over one hundred fifty five thousand (155,000) people and
12 leaving many more homeless, Navy medical teams with the USS
13 BONHOMME RICHARD, the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the Carrier Air
14 Wing Two, and the USNS MERCY (T-AH19) worked tirelessly with members
15 of the International Military Community in providing medical care to the
16 victims; and

17 **WHEREAS**, from June to October 2007, the USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)
18 was deployed as part of a humanitarian mission for the "Partnership for the
19 Americas" visiting twelve (12) countries and seeing over ninety eight
20 thousand (98,000) patients in the Caribbean and South America, including,
21 Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, Columbia,
22 Haiti, Trinidad/Tobago, Guyana and Suriname. The USNS COMFORT and
23 its team of multi-service health care professionals represented active duty and

1 reserve military, civilian, and non-government organizations from various
2 fields; and

3 **WHEREAS**, today, over four thousand (4,000) active duty and reserve
4 Navy nurses are serving in operational, humanitarian, and traditional
5 missions on the home front and abroad, providing professional nursing care
6 in peacetime and wartime under ordinary and extraordinary circumstances;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, Navy nurses are essential to the Navy Medicine's Force
9 Health Protection mission, integrating compassion with discipline,
10 individuality with conformity, and wellness promotion with wartime
11 readiness. Navy nurses, in particular the wartime nursing specialties of
12 mental health, nurse anesthesia, critical care, family nurse practitioners,
13 emergency medicine, preoperative, and surgical, have been exemplary in all
14 theaters of operations and healthcare settings. Navy nurses, with the support
15 of civilian and contract nurses, answered the call of duty with outstanding
16 dedication and provided hope and comfort to all those in need; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Navy Nurse Corps continues to be one of the largest
18 deploying groups among all professional corps (Medical, Dental and Medical
19 Service Corps) in the Navy. Navy nurses are serving in operational roles in
20 Kuwait; Iraq; Djibouti; Afghanistan; Bahrain; Qatar; Indonesia; Thailand;
21 Southeast Asia; Pakistan; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Germany, and aboard both
22 hospital ships MERCY and COMFORT and on many other grey-hulls; and

23 **WHEREAS**, for one hundred (100) years, members of the Navy Nurse
24 Corps included many who served overseas and on the front lines. They

1 worked in contagious disease wards during the Spanish Influenza epidemic.
2 They treated and cared for the sick and wounded in World War I base
3 hospitals, World War II prisoners of war camps and the Pacific operating
4 theaters, including on Guam; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Navy Nurse Corps served during many Navy
6 humanitarian missions. They are serving at the fleet hospitals supporting
7 Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Navy nurses have served
8 and continue to serve in many environments - overseas, onboard ships, in
9 medical centers, in clinics, in medevac helos, in hospital tents and under the
10 hostile conditions of war. They are honored to serve the men and women of
11 the Navy and Marine Corps, active duty and retired, and their family
12 members; now, therefore, be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na*
14 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
15 people of Guam, congratulate the United States Navy Nurse Corps as it
16 celebrates its One Hundredth (100th) Birthday, and does commend the men
17 and women of the Navy Nurse Corps for their outstanding contributions to
18 the United States Navy, the Nation, and the people of Guam; and be it further

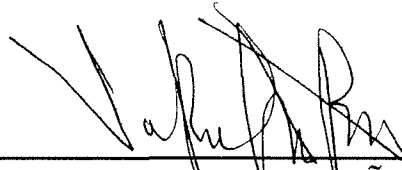
19 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Executive
20 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption
21 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Captain Robert
22 M. Kellog, Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Hospital Guam; to Rear Admiral
23 Christine Bruzek-Kohler, Chief - Navy Nurse Corps; to Rear Admiral William
24 D. French, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas; to the Honorable

- 1 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress; and to the Honorable Felix P.
- 2 Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 12TH
DAY OF MAY 2008.**



DR. DAVID L.G. SHIMIZU
Acting Speaker and
Chairperson, Executive Committee



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature