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

2008 APR 18 PM 2:03

Executive Committee
Resolution No. 183

Introduced by:

J. V. Espaldon
Edward J.B. Calvo

Relative to commemorating the 50th jubilee anniversary of
the Dedication of the Cathedral-Basilica of *Dulce Nombre de
Maria* in Agana, Guam.

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

3 WHEREAS, Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, Metropolitan Archbishop
4 of Agana, Guam and Chief Pastor of the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral-
5 Basilica of Agana, Guam, proclaimed a year of jubilee aptly called "Jubilee
6 Year of Grace, Joy and Gratitude" from April 20, 2007, until April 20, 2008 to
7 commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral-Basilica
8 of *Dulce Nombre de Maria* in Agana, Guam; and

9 WHEREAS, the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral-Basilica, the principal
10 church of Guam and the Marianas, was first built in the island on a piece of
11 property donated by Chief Quipua to Father Diego Luis de San Vitores, S.J in
12 1668, starting as a small edifice made of wood and upon its construction

1 dedicated as a church on February 2, 1669 under the title *El Dulcissimo Nombre*
2 *de Maria*, the Most Sweet Name of Mary; and

3 WHEREAS, the principal church was destroyed by typhoon in October
4 1671, earthquake in December 1909, and heavy bombing during the war in
5 July 1944. Construction for a provisional cathedral was completed in March
6 1945; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1911 the church was blessed with the special title
8 Cathedral during the consecration of its first bishop, Capuchin *Francisco y*
9 *Mateo*. The title Cathedral signifies that the church houses the cathedra of the
10 bishop, the chair which represents his teaching authority over his
11 congregation on Guam; and

12 WHEREAS; during the episcopacy of Capuchin Bishop William
13 Baumgartner, the current cathedral was completed and dedicated on April 20,
14 1958; and

15 WHEREAS, the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral was given a second
16 title of Basilica in 1985 by Pope John Paul II, representing that the church is a
17 chapel of the Holy Father, as witnessed by his visit to Guam in February 1981.
18 The Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral Basilica is one of only a few churches
19 in the world to have the special distinction of being a Cathedral-Basilica; and

20 WHEREAS, the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral Basilica has expanded
21 to meet the growing needs of the community, first with the building of the
22 Blessed Sacrament Chapel, which was dedicated in December 1994, and

1 more recently, the Chapel of Saint Therese was dedicated in late 2007 to serve
2 as unique place of worship for the island's faithful; and

3 WHEREAS, the ongoing construction of the National Museum of the
4 *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral-Basilica will complement the existing
5 grounds of the church and will serve as a treasure chest of the rich and
6 important history of the Catholic church in Guam since the arrival of Pale San
7 Vitores to the momentous occasion we celebrate today, a period that spans
8 339 years; and

9 WHEREAS, the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral-Basilica has served as
10 a special place in Guam throughout its existence and holds a special place in
11 the hearts of Guam's people who have celebrated special moments in their
12 lives within this great edifice; 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, commemorates the 50th Jubilee celebration of the dedication
16 of the Cathedral-Basilica of Dulce Nombre de Maria and commends the
17 Archdiocese of Agana on this special occasion; and be it further

18 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive
19 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption
20 hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to His Excellency
21 Anthony Sablan Apuron, Archbishop of Agana and Pastor of the *Dulce*
22 *Nombre de Maria* Cathedral Basilica; to the Very Reverend Monsignor James

- 1 L.G. Benavente, Rector of the *Dulce Nombre de Maria* Cathedral Basilica; and to
- 2 the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

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

JUDITH T. WON PAT
Speaker and
Chairwoman, Executive Committee

TINA MUNA-BARNES
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature