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**I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
(2007) First Regular Session**

**Executive Committee
Resolution No. 79**

Introduced by:

- F. F. Blas, Jr. *PB*
- Tina Muna-Barnes *AB*
- Antonio R. Unpingco *G*
- Edward B. Calvo
- James V. Espaldon
- Frank Ishizaki
- Judith P. Guthertz
- J. A. Lujan
- A. B. Palacios, Sr.
- Vicente C. Pangelinan
- R. J. Respicio
- David LG Shimizu
- R. Tenorio
- J. T. Won Pat
- Mark Forbes

Relative to recognizing the accomplishments of the late Peter C. Siguenza, the first Chamorro to be commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and to extend sincere condolences to his family on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *I***
2 ***LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Peter C. Siguenza, Sr. was born on May 15,
4 1920 to his proud parents Consolacion Cruz Mendiola and Jose Siguenza, was called
5 to his heavenly reward on Thursday, May 17, 2007 a day after celebrating his Eighty-
6 seventh birthday. Peter C. Siguenza, Sr. was the first Chamorro to be commissioned as
7 an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps died Thursday evening. Peter Siguenza, Sr., a
8 public servant and Guam liberator, had recently undergone hip surgery and was
9 recovering at his Sinajana home prior to his death; and

1 **WHEREAS**, as a young boy, Peter helped out around the church. He attended
2 the Richard P. Leary Elementary and Seaton Schroeder Junior High schools. After
3 graduating from Seaton Schroeder Junior High school, Pete worked for the Naval
4 government at its ship repair shop. Many of his friends joined the Navy, because it
5 seemed like the only alternative to farming. Pete, however, wanted to further his
6 education; and

7 **WHEREAS**, a big part of Pete's desire and decision to go to school in the
8 United States was a result of his parents influence, they had always emphasized the
9 importance of an education. In 1937, Pete left Guam to attend high school in Vallejo,
10 California. In 1940, Pete graduated from Coronado High School, while in high school,
11 Pete was an honor student, active in sports, a member of the school band and treasurer
12 of the student body association; and

13 **WHEREAS**, shortly after graduating from high school, Pete attended San
14 Diego State College. While enrolled there, he had to register for the draft. In 1942 he
15 was ordered to take a medical examination for induction into the U.S. Army. He
16 thought that if he were to be sent overseas, he would rather serve in the Pacific. Pete
17 thought one way to do this was to join the U.S. Navy. But Naval officers informed
18 him that because he was fro Guam, he could only enlist as a mess attendant; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Pete then went to the U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Office and
20 enlisted in the U.S. Marine. He trained at the Recruit Depot in San Diego. From there,
21 he went to training camp in Pendleton near Oceanside, California. Shortly, thereafter,
22 Pete and the Third Marine Division were sent overseas. He was stationed in Auckland,
23 New Zealand, for six months and then was ordered to Guadalcanal, where rigorous
24 training in jungle warfare was conducted; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in 1943, the Third Marine Division engaged in its first combat
26 mission at Empress Augusta Bay in Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands. After
27 Bougainville, the Third Marine Division was ordered to help in the recapture of
28 Guam. While en route to Guam aboard the U.S.S. Depage, Pete received orders to
29 return to the States. He was selected to attend the Officers Candidate School at
30 Quantico, Virginia and was also selected for the officer training through the Non-
31 commissioned Officers' Meritorious Program. Pete was commissioned a Second
32 Lieutenant in Marine Corps, making him the first Chamorro to become a U.S. Marine
33 Corps officer. After receiving his commission, Pete was ordered to rejoin the Third
34 Marine Division on Guam. But by then, Japan had already surrendered. Not long after
35 the war ended, Pete returned to the Marine Corps base in San Diego; and

36 **WHEREAS**, in 1946, Pete left the Marine Corps to pursue his education at
37 Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California. While there, Pete met up once again with
38 Barbara Louise Bordallo, whom he had gotten to know while stationed on Guam after
39 the war. Barbara was also in college at a nearby school. After returning to Guam in
40 1950, Pete and Barbara were married. For a brief period, Pete served as executive

1 director for the local Boy Scouts of America organization, until joining his father-in-
2 law's business, Bordallo consolidated. Pete worked there for about a year, giving up
3 his weekends to training the Guam Militia, which was revived under then Governor
4 Carlton Skinner. The governor later appointed Pete director of Civil Defense; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1953 when Governor Skinner was replaced by Governor Ford
6 Q. Elvidge, Pete was assigned to the Department Labor and Personnel. With the
7 governor's encouragement, Pete took of a year to pursue his Master of Public
8 Administration degree at the University of Southern California. Pete returned to the
9 government of Guam under the administration of Governor Richard Lowe, serving a
10 total of eight years. Pete then left the local government to work for the Federal
11 government in personnel. He served at Andersen Air Force Base, Fairchild, Air Force
12 Base in Spokane, Washington, and Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. Pete
13 was also employed as an Appeals and Grievance Examiner for the Air Force
14 Headquarters in Sacramento, California, San Antonio, Texas, and Washington, D.C.;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Pete later transferred to the Department of Defense working in the
17 United States, Europe and the Pacific for well over twenty-five years. In 1980, Pete
18 returned home and then went to work in the private sector for the Jones and Guerrero
19 Company as its personnel director until 1986; and

20 **WHEREAS**, although retired, Pete remained active in civic and community.
21 He has served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Guam; Board
22 of Trustees of the Guam Community College; the Chamorro Language Commission;
23 the Guam Rotary Club; American red Cross; the Boys Scouts of America, and the
24 Council of Elders of the Young Men's League of Guam, Guam Visitors Bureau
25 Board. During its 2005 Commencement Exercise, the University of Guam bestowed
26 upon Pete C. Siguenza, Sr., an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Pete is also a
27 Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Peter C. Siguenza, Sr., is the father of retired Supreme Court of
29 Guam Chief Justice Peter Siguenza Jr., and brother-in-law to Guam Delegate
30 Madeleine Bordallo who stated that "*Peter Siguenza was a dedicated family man, a
31 devout Christian, an American patriot and war hero, and a great Chamorro. His love
32 for our island, for Chamorro culture and traditions, and for our country was
33 surpassed only by his love for his family and God;*" now, therefore, be it

34 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
35 on behalf of people of Guam, recognize the outstanding contributions, legacy and
36 services of the late Peter C. Siguenza Sr. and extends sincere condolences to his wife,
37 Barbara L. Bordallo Siguenza; son, retired Supreme Court of Guam Chief Justice
38 Peter C. Siguenza Jr.; daughters and sons-in-law Monica A. Siguenza Sphar and
39 Michael Sphar and Donna Siguenza Rigler and Joel Rigler; grandchildren Dawn
40 Renee Siguenza Blas, David M. Blas Jr., Isaac B. Rigler and Nathaniel L. Rigler;

1 sister and brothers Oliva S. Guerrero, Eduardo C. Siguenza and Antonio C. Siguenza.;
2 and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature
4 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to
5 his wife Barbara L. Bordallo Siguenza; his son, retired Supreme Court of Guam Chief
6 Justice Peter C. Siguenza Jr.; his daughters and sons-in-law Monica A. Siguenza
7 Sphar and Michael Sphar and Donna Siguenza Rigler and Joel Rigler; to the
8 Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Delegate to the United States Congress
9 and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.