

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

*Dave*  
*12/29/06*

Resolution No. 211 (EE)

Introduced by:

- J.T. Won Pat
- Mark Forbes
- J. M.S. Brown
- Edward J.B. Calvo
- F. B. Aguon, Jr. - 2
- Mike Cruz
- L. F. Kasperbauer
- R. Klitzkie
- J. A. Lujan
- A. B. Palacios - 3
- R. J. Respicio - 4
- Ray Tenorio
- A. R. Unpingco

*EMM*  
*4:10 PM*  
*12-29-06*

Relative to Commending and Congratulating Senator Benjamin J.F. Cruz on his service in the Twenty-Eighth Guam Legislature. *to the people of Guam*

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN  
2 GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, Benjamin J.F. Cruz, a son of Guam, was born on March 3,  
4 1951 to Juan Quenga Cruz and Antonia Cruz Franquez; and

5 WHEREAS, Benjamin J.F. Cruz has two sisters, Marceline and Elaine;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, after graduating from St. John High School in Bellflower,  
8 California in 1968, B.J. attended Claremont Men's School, where he earned a

1 B.A. degree in Political Science and Economics, writing his senior thesis on  
2 “The Constitutional and Legal History of Guam”; and

3 **WHEREAS**, B.J.’s love of the law led him to the University of Santa  
4 Clara, where he was awarded his J.D. in 1975; and

5 **WHEREAS**, B.J. subsequently passed the Guam Bar Examination and  
6 continues to be an active member of the Guam Bar Association; and

7 **WHEREAS**, B.J. operated a private law practice and served as Minority  
8 Legal Counsel in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislatures; and

9 **WHEREAS**, B.J. served as head of the Washington D.C. office of the  
10 Governor during Ricardo J. Bordallo’s second term as Governor; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 1984, Governor Bordallo nominated B.J. as a Judge of the  
12 Superior Court of Guam, where he served as a judge until 1999; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, Governor Carlos T.C. Gutierrez nominated B.J. to  
14 the Supreme Court of Guam, where he served until 2001, the last two years as  
15 Chief Justice; and

16 **WHEREAS**, throughout his seventeen years of judicial experience,  
17 Judge Cruz won praise from the Bar and the public for his courage in  
18 handling many controversial matters, his wisdom and compassion in dealing  
19 with crimes of violence and conscience in advocating for better facilities and  
20 services for youth offenders; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Twenty-Seventh Guam Legislature passed  
22 legislation establishing a Unified Guam Judiciary, a cause Judge Cruz had  
23 long espoused and fought for; and

1           **WHEREAS**, B.J. has always strongly advocated the promotion of  
2 Chamorro cultural and political rights, serving as legal counsel to both OPIR  
3 and PARA-PADA; and

4           **WHEREAS**, B.J. has strongly advocated against nuclear waste storage  
5 and dumping in the Pacific area; and

6           **WHEREAS**, in 2003, B.J. served on the Guam War Claims Review  
7 Commission, a body created by federal legislation to review the claims of  
8 Guamanians arising from World War II and said Commission recommended  
9 to Congress that such awards be paid; and

10          **WHEREAS**, in 2004, B.J. sought and obtained the support of the people  
11 of Guam, who elected him Senator in the Twenty-Eighth Guam Legislature;  
12 and

13          **WHEREAS**, as a Senator, B.J. helped pass legislation increasing Guam's  
14 minimum wage, raising pay for teachers, and appropriating more funds for  
15 health care as well as drug and alcohol treatment programs; and

16          **WHEREAS**, during his term as Senator, B.J. Cruz has been a voice of  
17 fiscal restraint, while at the same time advocating the spending of funds on  
18 education and health related projects that will benefit Guam; and

19          **WHEREAS**, Senator B.J. Cruz has won the admiration of his fellow  
20 Senators for his courage, eloquence and judgment, while at the same time  
21 remaining willing to co-operate in the name of the people of Guam and their  
22 best interests; and

23

