

**I MINA 'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (First) REGULAR SESSION**

Resolution No. 24 (EC)

Introduced by:

A.R. Unpingco

**RELATIVE TO PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF
MAY 1-7, 2005 AS VIETNAM VETERANS
RECOGNITION WEEK, AND ACKNOWLEDGING
THE MEMBERS OF VFW POST 2917, VFW POST
1509, VFW POST 10237, AND SAIPAN VFW POST
FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN HONORING THEM ON
MAY 1, 2005, VFW LOYALTY DAY.**

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

**2 WHEREAS, 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during
3 the Vietnam era, with 8,744,000 personnel on active duty in the war; and**

**4 WHEREAS, 3,403,100 personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater, of
5 which 2,594,000 served within the borders of Vietnam; and**

**6 WHEREAS, between 1 and 1.6 million personnel either fought in
7 combat, provided close combat support or were at least fairly regularly
8 exposed to enemy attack; and**

**9 WHEREAS, there were 47,418 hostile deaths and 10,811 non-hostile
10 deaths, including 8 nurses and 17,539 married men, with 61 % of the men
11 killed being 21 years of age or younger; and**

12 WHEREAS, Guam lost 72 young men to the Vietnam conflict; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, there were 303,704 personnel wounded with 75,000
2 severely disabled, including 23,214 100% disabled, 5283 with lost limbs, and
3 1081 who sustained multiple amputations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, amputations or crippling wounds to the lower extremities
5 were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea, equating to a
6 rate of 18.4% of all wounds; and

7 **WHEREAS**, 25% of total forces in country were draftees as compared to
8 66% of U.S. Armed Forces members during WWII; and

9 **WHEREAS**, draftees accounted for 17,725 combat deaths in Vietnam,
10 there were 5,977 reservists killed, and National Guard members were listed as
11 22 KIA; and

12 **WHEREAS**, 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were
13 Caucasian (includes Hispanics), 10.6% were black, and 1% belonged to other
14 races; and

15 **WHEREAS**, 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian,
16 12.5% were black and 1.2% belonged to other races; and

17 **WHEREAS**, 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/
18 working class backgrounds, three-fourths had family incomes above the
19 poverty level and 50% were from middle-income backgrounds; and

20 **WHEREAS**, 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school
21 education or better, with some 23% of Vietnam vets having fathers with
22 professional, managerial or technical occupations; and

23 **WHEREAS**, 82% of the veterans who saw heavy combat strongly
24 believe the war was lost because of the lack of political will, a view shared by
25 nearly 75% of the general public who were queried on this question; and

1 **WHEREAS**, 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged at
2 an average age of 19 years; and

3 **WHEREAS**, many Vietnam-era veterans returned “to the world” to re-
4 start their lives in a wide range of occupations and careers, including former
5 Secretary of State Colin C. Powell, noted author James H. Webb, Jr., television
6 actor Dennis Franz of *NYPD Blue* fame, and former Pittsburgh Steelers
7 running back Rocky Bleier; and

8 **WHEREAS**, many returning Veterans found assimilation back into
9 society a difficult task due to physical, mental, and psychological trauma,
10 including suffering from the effects of defoliation efforts using *Agent Orange*,
11 and the maladies associated with post traumatic stress disorder; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the general public has slowly welcomed back these
13 veterans and has acknowledged their contributions and sacrifices in the
14 defense of freedom, justice and democracy through the erection of
15 appropriate monuments such as the Vietnam Wall, of which a replica of the
16 same has been erected at the Asan Overlook on Guam; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Guam takes pride in recognizing and commemorating the
18 efforts of her young men who served in Vietnam, and as one token of
19 appreciation has named Route 10 the *Vietnam Veterans Highway*; now,
20 therefore be it

21 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina ‘Bente Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby
22 proclaim the week of May 1-7, 2005 as Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week;
23 and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that the men and women who served during the Vietnam
25 War, as well as all Veterans of all wars, are urged to join in the activities being

1 hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2917 Agat on May 1, 2005 in
2 commemoration of Loyalty Day; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina 'Bente Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on behalf of
4 the people of Guam does hereby commend the members of Veterans of
5 Foreign Wars Post 2917, Post 1509, Post 10237, and Saipan Post for their
6 efforts to promote unity and camaraderie amongst Vietnam-era Veterans during
7 the week of May 1-7, 2005, and amongst all Veterans year-round; and be it
8 further

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
10 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
11 thereafter transmitted to Mr. Jesse Pangelinan, Commander, Veterans of
12 Foreign Wars Post 2917 Agat; to Mr. Donald McLaine Commander, Veterans
13 of Foreign Wars Post 1509, Dededo; to Mr. Jack Shimizu, Commander, Order
14 of the Purple Heart; to Mr. William R. Flores, Commander, American Legion
15 Post 1; to Mr. John Finona, President, Vietnam Veterans Association, Chapter
16 668; and, to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE __ DAY OF _____, 2005.**

MARK FORBES
Speaker

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Senator and Secretary of the Legislature

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