

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

Resolution No. 89 (LS)

Introduced by:

A.R. Unpingco ⁶
L.F. Kasperbauer ^{JK}

RELATIVE TO CONGRATULATING DR. JOAN GILL FOR HER TIRELESS EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE VETERANS OF GUAM IN THEIR PURSUIT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS; AND, TO REQUEST THAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES BE PROVIDED TO HER FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO SERVICE MORE GUAM VETERANS.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Joan Gill, VA Staff Psychiatrist, VA Community Based
3 Outpatient Clinic (VACBOC), Guam is a recognized expert in the treatment of
4 veterans with neuropsychiatric (NP) disorders related to their military service,
5 specifically Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD); and

6 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Gill has worked as a Compensation and Pension
7 Examiner in assessing Guam Veterans for NP disorders with the majority
8 concentrated on diagnosed PTSD patients; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Gill was later assigned to the clinical evaluation process
10 as a new examiner assigned to conduct VA Compensation and Pension
11 Examinations; and

22,

2005 JUL 14 PM 5: 1

1 **WHEREAS**, as the principal manager of treatment for military related
2 NP disabilities, primarily PTSD, the demand for her services has exceeded her
3 staffing levels and ability to work within reasonable timeframes for each
4 Veteran served on Guam; and

5 **WHEREAS**, providing additional staffing and funding to Dr. Gill will
6 allow for more Veterans to be treated on-island and also allows for Veterans
7 living in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and other islands of
8 the Mid Pacific region to receive the required treatment they so desperately
9 need on Guam versus treatment in Hawaii; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the provision of additional resources can be a huge savings
11 for American taxpayers in that a competent and capable clinician and
12 manager such as Dr. Gill can offer a broader range of services to needy
13 Veterans and family counseling to member, since PTSD affects not only the
14 Veteran but immediate family members who have been traumatized as well
15 by the experiences of the Veteran; and

16 **WHEREAS**, if Guam Veterans can continue to receive proper medical
17 treatment for NP disorders, primarily PTSD, from the Guam Treatment Team
18 working out of the VACBOC and Vet Center, potential cost savings will be the
19 cost of travel, lodging and personal expenses to the Veteran who essentially
20 dislocates from his family during a seven to nine week treatment program in
21 Hilo, Hawaii; now, therefore be it

22 **RESOLVED**, since the VACBOC operates on a funding authorization by
23 the Honolulu VA Medical Center approval process, *I Mina 'Bente Ocho na*

1 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* recommends that Dr. Gill should be designated as a
2 Satellite Treatment Center Manager with adequate staffing and funding
3 commensurate with the number of Veterans treated annually; and, be it
4 further

5 **RESOLVED**, *I Mina 'Bente Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* recommends that
6 Dr. Gill should be granted the authority associated with expanded duties and
7 respectfully rendered the pay and allowances that one would be entitled to
8 receive as a Federal Civil Service Officer; and, be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, *I Mina 'Bente Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* recommends a
10 Memorandum of Agreement be forged between the U.S. Naval Hospital, or a
11 contracted entity, to care for Veterans requiring emergent care for service-
12 connected neuropsychiatric disorders including PTSD since there is no NP in-
13 patient services available to non-retiree Veterans on Guam through the U.S.
14 Naval Hospital or local medical center, and the latter would require VA
15 approval for in-patient care at the Guam Memorial Hospital; and be it further

16 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina 'Bente Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby
17 on behalf of the people of Guam extend its sincerest congratulations to Dr.
18 Joan Gill for her tireless efforts to assist the Veterans of Guam; and, be it
19 further

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
21 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
22 thereafter transmitted to Dr. Joan Gill; to the Honorable R. James Nicholson,
23 Secretary, Department of Veterans' Affairs; to Mr. Dennis Kuewa, Director,

- 1 Veterans' Affairs, Hawaii; and, to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
- 2 *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