

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 91 (LS)

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio
J.A. Lujan
L.F. KASPERBAUER JEL
B. Cruz

Relative to recognizing and commending the Tumon/John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association for their efforts to create a single reunion event combining the graduating classes of the school; to acknowledge the official unveiling of the school's Hall of Fame; and to congratulate all of the many graduates, students, educators and workers who have graced the halls of this Guam institution since it's opening in 1959.

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

WHEREAS, forty-seven years ago, in 1958, construction began on a high school situated atop a hill overlooking the peaceful and quiet beaches of Tumon Bay, the contractors and the students that soon followed them into the new facility having no idea how much the view was going to change; and

WHEREAS, the new school first opened its doors for the 1959-1960 school year, admitting over a thousand students into what was then known as Tumon Junior Senior High School, accommodating students from as far north as Andersen Air Force Base and as far south as Piti, who attended classes in a modern, concrete facility that made the Quonset huts and tin buildings of Guam's other public high school, George Washington, look very drab and outdated; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, two events took place that forever altered the history of the new school, the first being the devastation to the island caused by Super Typhoon Karen in November, 1962, completely

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2005 JUN 17 PM 4: 35

destroying the George Washington campus, and forcing both high school populations to share the Tumon facility, with the visiting G.W. students taking the afternoon shift; and

WHEREAS, in the year following Typhoon Karen, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and local leaders changed the name of the Tumon High School as a tribute and honor to the slain President, causing some students to mount an unsuccessful effort to retain the school's original name; and

WHEREAS, by school year 1966-1967, and after three classes of George Washington graduates had passed through the gymnasium of the Tumon/JFK facility to receive their diplomas, a new George Washington High School opened, putting an end to the double sessions, and returning the campus of John F. Kennedy High School to its intended students; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that the campus had been designed to accommodate just 1,200 students, the population steadily grew over the years to double that number, and the facility began showing its age; and

WHEREAS, the destruction caused by several typhoons, most notably Pongsona and Chata'an, caused disruptions in class schedules and operations, Pongsona even forcing students to temporarily share a campus with George Washington, a reversal of what had happened in the 1960s, and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2003, facing the possibility of an additional year of double sessions, a group of concerned citizens, local businesses and JFK alumni joined together and devoted their time and effort to restoring the school to operational status so that the school could open on time, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of this community effort and with the interest in the campus on the rise, a group of alumni including Peter

Alexis Ada, Myrna Servino Martinez, Louisa Flores Wessling, and Patricia S.N. Taitano formed the Tumon/John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association and began preparations for a joint class reunion this summer covering all of the school's graduating classes since its inception, and

WHEREAS, as part of the revitalization of the Tumon/Kennedy spirit, the Alumni Association will be unveiling a Tumon/John F. Kennedy High School Hall of Fame and a Walk Down Memory Lane event on July 19th, some of the individuals being honored to include CNMI Congressman and Former Lt. Governor Pete A. Tenorio, Class of 1960; CNMI Congressman Herman Palacios, Class of 1961; former Governor Joseph F. Ada, Class of 1963; and former Congressman Robert A. Underwood, Class of 1965; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the Tumon/John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association for their efforts to restore the school's spirit among its former students by creating a single reunion event combining the graduating classes of the school, and acknowledge the official unveiling of the school's Hall of Fame, and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, extends its most sincere and heartfelt congratulations to the many graduates, students, educators and workers who have graced the halls of Tumon/John F. Kennedy High School since it's opening in 1959, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Peter Alexis Ada, President; Myrna Servino Martinez, Vice President; Louisa Flores Wessling, Secretary; and Patricia S.N. Taitano,

Treasurer, all of the Tumon/John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association; to Ulric Mark, Principal of John F. Kennedy High School; to Juan Flores, Superintendent of the Department of Education; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.