

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

Resolution No. 168 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

Edward J.B. Calvo

Mark Forbes

A. R. Unpingco

F. B. Aguon, Jr.

J. M.S. Brown

B. J.F. Cruz

Mike Cruz

L. F. Kasperbauer

R. Klitzkie

J. A. Lujan

A. B. Palacios, Sr.

R. J. Respicio

Ray Tenorio

J. T. Won Pat

Relative to recognizing the distinguished service of Judge Ramon V. Diaz, the first Filipino appointee to a Guam court of general jurisdiction, and to further extending to him a sincere *un dangkulo na si Yu'os ma'åse'* for his contributions as an active and contributing member of Guam's legal profession.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, before World War II, Judge Ramon V. Diaz received a
4 Bachelor of Philosophy and Letters Degree in 1940 from the University of
5 Santo Tomas in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, and in 1941 a Bachelor of
6 Law Degree from the same institution. Judge Ramon V. Diaz was admitted to

1 practice law by the Philippine Bar Association in 1941 and, simultaneously
2 serving as a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) cadet, Judge Diaz was
3 appointed Corps Commander of the University's Cadet Brigade as Cadet
4 Colonel; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the outbreak of World War II on December 8, 1941
6 interrupted his plans for further academic studies, and he was called to
7 service in the military. In 1945, he graduated from the U.S. Army Judge
8 Advocate General School for commissioned officers at the University of
9 Michigan in Ann Arbor. Between 1946 and 1951, Judge Diaz served as Chief of
10 the Claims Branch of the Philippine Army's Judge Advocate General's Office.
11 For his outstanding performance in the Claims Division, the President of the
12 Philippines decorated him with the prestigious Presidential Medal of Military
13 Merit; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Judge Diaz came to Guam in 1951 at the urging of close
15 friends, Mr. Francisco and Mrs. Carmen de la Cruz, who had established the
16 Guam Academy of Music and Arts. Judge Diaz came on an exploratory visit,
17 and then opted to stay, find work, and make a home for his family. His wife
18 Josefina de la Concepcion and their children joined him in 1953. Between jobs
19 in different law firms, he worked for Perez Brothers, Inc., as Assistant to the
20 firm's President, the late Senator and businessman Frank D. Perez. Judge Diaz
21 became a U.S. citizen in 1956, and was admitted to the Guam Bar Association
22 in 1960. That year, he opened his legal practice on island with Judge Joaquin
23 C. Perez, eventually joining him as a partner; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 1969, Judge Diaz was admitted as an officer of the court
25 in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1977, Judge Diaz was admitted to

1 practice law in the High Court of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands
2 and in 1978 to the District Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern
3 Marianas Islands. Judge Diaz also served as a member of the Federal Board of
4 Immigration Appeals for several years and was active in church and civic
5 affairs. Judge Diaz helped organize the Knights of Columbus, Guam Council
6 and Guam Assembly; is a retired Deacon of the Archdiocese of *Hagåtña*; was
7 President of the Filipino Community of Guam; and served as Vice-President
8 for the Guam Girl Scouts Council. Judge Diaz helped organize the Marianas
9 Audubon Society; is a former officer and director of the Filipino-American
10 Chamber of Commerce; and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

11 **WHEREAS**, following his retirement from the Superior Court of Guam
12 in 1994, Judge Ramon V. Diaz continued his active involvement in various
13 charitable and organizations; moreover, Judge Diaz has served as a symbol of
14 truth and justice to members of his family, relatives, friends, and those who
15 sought his legal advice, mediation, or words of wisdom throughout his
16 personal life and professional career; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
18 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the distinguished service of Judge
19 Ramon V. Diaz, the first Filipino appointee to a Guam court of general
20 jurisdiction, and extends to him a sincere *un dangkulo na si Yu'os ma'åse'* for his
21 contributions as an active and contributing member of Guam's legal
22 profession; and be it further


23 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
24 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
25 thereafter transmitted to Judge Ramon V. Diaz; to the Honorable Teresita

- 1 Mendiola, Philippine Consulate General's Office of Guam; and to the
- 2 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 22ND DAY OF JUNE 2006.



MARK FORBES
Speaker



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