

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

Resolution No. 205 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

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

Relative to congratulating and commending the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood, a true pioneer for *Chamorro* women in the legal profession, for her more than twenty-three (23) years of public service as a Prosecutor, Superior Court Judge and Supreme Court Justice, on the occasion of investiture as Chief Judge of the District Court of Guam, the first *Chamorro* woman to hold said position.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** after receiving her Juris Doctorate at the University of
4 Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1983, Frances Marie Tydingco-
5 Gatewood has achieved a number of personal and professional milestones

1 that have made the people of Guam proud, providing an example for all the
2 women of Guam; and

3 **WHEREAS**, her achievements are all the more remarkable because for
4 the past twenty-five (25) plus years she has adroitly balanced the roles of wife,
5 law student, mother of three (3) sons, Assistant Attorney General, Prosecutor,
6 Chief Prosecutor, and Justice; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood's roots
8 are in the Pacific islands: she was born in Hawaii of *Chamorro* and Pohnpeian
9 lineage, grew up in Guam, graduated from George Washington High School
10 in 1976 and received her B.A. in Political Science from Marquette University in
11 Milwaukee, Wisconsin on a Guam Pro-Tech Scholarship; and

12 **WHEREAS**, she began her legal career as a clerk for the Honorable
13 Forest W. Hanna, Presiding Judge of the Jackson County Circuit Court in
14 Kansas City, Missouri, until 1984, when she became the first *Chamorro* woman
15 to serve as Assistant Attorney General in Guam, earning a reputation for
16 being tough and fair in her prosecution of many major felonies and
17 concurrently serving as a designated Federal Prosecutor at the United States
18 Attorney's Office in Guam; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood returned
20 to Missouri in 1988 to become an Assistant Prosecutor with the Jackson
21 County Prosecutor's Office, handling major felony cases and serving as the
22 Trial Team Leader for the Sex Crimes Unit, supervising several attorneys and
23 staff members and concurrently serving as a designated Federal Prosecutor;
24 and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1990, the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood
2 came home to stay, becoming the first *Chamorro* woman to serve as Chief
3 Prosecutor in the Department of Law, a position she held until 1994,
4 supervising many lawyers and staff members, handling a substantial felony
5 case load and again concurrently serving as a designated Federal Prosecutor;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, Governor Joseph F. Ada, in 1994, appointed and the Guam
8 Legislature unanimously confirmed, the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-
9 Gatewood as a Judge of the Superior Court, recognizing her fairness and
10 tireless dedication in seeking justice as Guam's Chief Prosecutor, her selection
11 being a source of pride as the first *Chamorro* female appointed to the bench;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, while serving more than seven (7) years in the trial court,
14 Judge Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood authored hundreds of decisions and
15 orders, presided over family court, juvenile court, traffic court, handled high
16 profile criminal cases, probate matters, and the Royal Palm Resort case, often
17 called the most complex civil litigation trial in the Pacific Rim, and
18 concurrently served as a designated Federal Judge for the District Court of
19 Guam; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood
21 concurrently served as a designated Associate Guam Supreme Court Justice
22 for three (3) years and was appointed as a designated Associate Justice for the
23 CNMI by the Honorable Chief Justice Miguel Demapan; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2001, Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez appointed Judge
2 Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court,
3 his confidence in her abilities as echoed by overwhelming support from the
4 legal community, her dedication to jurisprudence, and her civic and
5 contributions being key to her selection and her unanimous confirmation by
6 the 26th Guam Legislature; and

7 **WHEREAS**, while serving with the Associate Justice Robert J. Torres
8 and Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido, Justice Frances Marie Tydingco-
9 Gatewood authored numerous opinions while chairing important sub-
10 committees, to promote improvement of the administration of justice,
11 including committees on Proposed Criminal Jury Instructions, Criminal
12 Indigent Defense, Pro Se Litigation, Crime Victim and Witness Protection,
13 Board of Law Examiners Drafting and Grading, Alternative Dispute
14 Resolution-Mediation for contested child custody cases; and Judicial,
15 Attorney, and Community Education; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Justice Frances Tydingco-Gatewood also serves as co-
17 chairperson for the Pacific Judicial Council Education Committee, which is
18 dedicated to improving the education of all justices, judges and court staff for
19 Guam, the CNMI, Belau, American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands
20 and the FSM; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood's belief
22 in strong family values, together with the love of her husband Dr. Robert
23 Gatewood, a Practicing Periodontist and their children: Daniel, Michael and
24 Stephen; her mother, Mrs. Francesca Tydingco; her siblings and in-laws

1 Attorney Phil Tydingco and wife Karen; Juliana Borja and husband Michael;
2 Daniel Tydingco and wife Lory; have been a blessing and a source of support
3 for her; and

4 **WHEREAS**, after Governor Felix P. Camacho recommended that Justice
5 Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood be nominated as Chief Judge for the
6 District Court of Guam, she was so nominated by President George W. Bush
7 in April 2006 and was so confirmed on August 4, 2006 and will assume her
8 duties as Chief Judge on October 30, 2006; now, therefore, be it

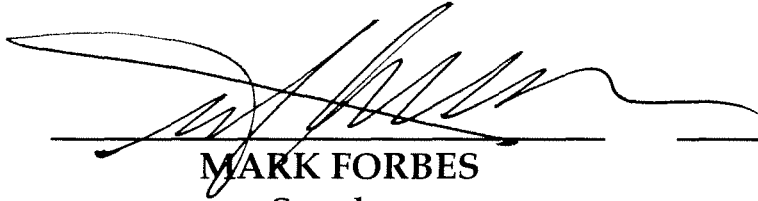
9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
10 on behalf of the people of Guam, commend the Honorable Frances Marie
11 Tydingco-Gatewood, a true pioneer for *Chamorro* women in the legal
12 profession, for her years of exemplary service to our island as a Prosecutor,
13 Superior Court Judge and Supreme Court Justice; and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
15 on behalf of the people of Guam, congratulate the Honorable Frances Marie
16 Tydingco-Gatewood on the occasion of her investiture as Chief Judge of the
17 District Court of Guam, the first *Chamorro* woman to hold said position; and
18 be it further

19 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
20 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
21 thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Frances Marie Tydingco-Gatewood; to
22 her mother, Mrs. Francesca Tydingco; to the Honorable George W. Bush,
23 President of the United States; to the Honorable F. Philip Carbullido, Chief
24 Justice of Guam; to the Honorable Mary Schroeder, Chief Judge of the Ninth

- 1 Circuit Court of Appeals; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen*
- 2 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 27TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2006.



MARK FORBES
Speaker



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