

MINA' BENTE NUEBE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

Legislative

Resolution No. 117 (LS)

Introduced by:

Edward J.B. Calvo *EJC*

Frank F. Blas, Jr. *FB*

J. T. Won Pat, Ed. D. *JTW*

Relative to recognizing and congratulating Miss Keandra Marlaine McDonald on winning Second (2nd) Place overall in the annual Armed Services YMCA National Art Contest.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA' NUEBE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the Armed Services YMCA, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, is a national member association of the YMCA of the United States and works with the Department of Defense headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. The Armed Services YMCA sponsors an annual national essay and art contest during Military Family Month in November for children from kindergarten through sixth (6th) grade whose parents are active duty or retired service men/women; and

WHEREAS, thousands of children throughout the nation submitted illustrations of their military families of which only three (3) winners per branch – Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and Air Force – were chosen; and

WHEREAS, Miss Keandra Marlaine McDonald was born on April 24, 1998. She is the daughter of Christopher and Stacy McDonald Flores of Agaña Heights and the granddaughter of Paul and Elaine Z. McDonald and Joseph Borja and Elsie Flores; and

WHEREAS, Miss Keandra McDonald Flores a Fourth (4th) grade student attending McCool Elementary and Middle School, DODEA was encouraged by her Third (3rd) grade teacher, Mrs. Therese Diaz. Keandra entered the contest last year while in the Third (3rd) grade. Keandra's drawing portrayed her father's command, the United States Coast Guard Cutter Sequoia (WLB-215) stationed at Apra Harbor, Guam; and

WHEREAS, Keandra's father, BM2 Christopher Flores is an active duty serviceman in the United States Coast Guard. Petty Officer Flores has been in the United States Coast Guard for three (3) years and was stationed in Seattle, Washington prior to being stationed in Guam. ~~BM2~~ Christopher Flores was an active duty serviceman in the United States Navy for three (3) years and served two (2) years in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, having won second (2nd) place nationally Miss Keandra Marlaine McDonald's prizes include a U. S. Savings Bond, her artwork is featured on the Armed Services YMCA website, asymca.org and will be created into a poster for distribution to members of Congress and Department of Defense officials; and

WHEREAS, Keandra's artwork will also be featured in a book entitled "My Hero" authored by Alan Appel and Mike Rothmiller having collected more than 100 essays and artwork from children whose parents are serving or have served in the military. The children's heartfelt, moving, sometimes funny, and completely honest observations about their moms and dads truly capture the emotional connection between parent and child that cannot be severed even when a parent is thousands of miles away, gone for long stretches of time, and in danger. Inspiring, heartbreaking, and genuine, the book provides a fascinating look inside the hearts and minds of kids who love and honor their moms and dads as heroes - at home or on the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, Keandra's parents have been contacted by several mainland and local news teams who published Keandra's winning artwork to include the *Pacific Navigator*, *Stars and Stripes* and the *Pacific Daily News*; and

WHEREAS, the inspiration behind Keandra's island-themed drawing was her father, BM2 Christopher Flores. She drew her father's boat along with some palm trees, flags of the United States and Guam to represent the unity between the mainland and our island; and

WHEREAS, Miss Keandra Marlaine McDonald serves as a source of inspiration to her classmates, friends, and family, to whom she has always been encouraged spiritually, personally; and, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the members of *I Mina' Bente Nuebe Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* expresses its congratulations to Ms. Keandra Marlaine McDonald for winning second (2nd) place overall in the Annual Armed Services YMCA National Art contest; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Miss Keandra Marlaine McDonald, Mayor and Mrs. Paul McDonald, Mr. Joseph Borja and Ms. Elise Flores, Mrs. Therese Diaz, McCool Elementary and Middle School, Rear Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, Commander, U. S. Coast Guard Fourteenth District, Honolulu, Hawaii, Lieutenant Commander Jeffery F. Neumann, USCG Commanding Officer, USCGC SEQUOIA (WLB-215), Lieutenant Thomas D'Arcy and/or Command Chief David J. Mann on behalf of the USCGC SEQUOIA (WLB-215) and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA' BENTE NUEBE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2008.

EDWARD J. B. CALVO
Acting Speaker

RAY TENORIO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature