

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

Resolution No. 173 (EC)

Introduced by:

F. F. Blas, Jr.

J. V. Espaldon

B. J.F. Cruz

2008 JUL 28 PM 3:09

Elom

Relative to requesting the Federal government, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Chairman of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs to establish a Veterans Regional Office on Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN

GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense is poised to effectuate one of the largest movements of military forces from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, by 2015. It is anticipated that this movement will increase Guam's population from 170,000 to 210,000. With this population increase, combined with the current number of active duty, guard, and reserve service members from Guam who have toured or are serving tours of duty in the War on Terror, Guam will realize a dramatic increase in the number of veterans who will be seeking and be in need of veterans services; and

WHEREAS, Guam's men and women gave unselfishly and patriotically of themselves so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. Although for many years they have waited patiently for the treatment and services afforded to their comrades elsewhere, their patience should no longer be taken for granted. The current level of service rendered by the Federal government is not only a disservice to the American Veterans who chose to reside on Guam and Micronesia, but a disservice to all those American veterans who have fought for our freedom; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Guam and the rest of Micronesian region to date, have had the
2 most, per capita, soldiers killed in our Nation’s current war than any other jurisdiction
3 in the United States. During the Vietnam conflict, there were more soldiers from
4 Guam that were killed in that war than any other state or territory. During World War
5 II, Guam was the only United States possession that was occupied by enemy forces.
6 Although we will never have the opportunity to repay those who have gone before us
7 the debt we owe for their ultimate sacrifice, we can begin to make good for those who
8 are still with us; now, therefore, be it

9 **WHEREAS**, the time has come to upgrade the policies with regards to the
10 treatment that our veterans receive here on Guam and throughout the Micronesian
11 Region. The people of Guam wholeheartedly agree with the statement of the
12 Congressman Bob Filner, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs that
13 “in order for our troops to experience the seamless transition they deserve, the
14 bureaucratic problems that prevent many from getting the care they need must be
15 fixed;” and

16 **WHEREAS**, it is for these issues that the people of Guam seek consideration
17 and assistance in establishing a Guam Regional Office for Veterans’ Affairs to serve
18 the veterans of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated
19 States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau;
20 and

21 **RESOLVED**, that a Guam soldier or airman is an American soldier or airman,
22 and as such, the Guam veteran is an American veteran and should be treated no less
23 than what they have earned and rightfully deserve; now, therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina''Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
25 on behalf of the veterans of Guam, petition the President of the United States, the
26 Honorable George W. Bush; James B. Peake, Secretary of the Department of Veterans
27 Affairs, to the Chairman and Members of the Senate Veterans Affairs, to Chairman

1 and Members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee; to Guam's Delegate to the
2 United States Congress to support the findings and recommendation made by *I*
3 *Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* that the Federal government establish a
4 Veterans' Regional Office on Guam; and be it further

5 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby
6 on behalf of the people of Guam, reiterate our position that Guam's veterans deserve
7 the best care and service possible for their many years of service in defense of our
8 Nation and that the establishment of a Veterans Regional Office on Guam is but one
9 way we can begin to provide our veterans what they have rightfully earned; and be it
10 further

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature
12 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to
13 the Honorable James B. Peake, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the
14 Chairman and Members of the Senate Veterans Affairs, to Chairman and Members of
15 the House Veterans Affairs Committee; to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
16 of the United States of America; to the Honorable John McCain, United States
17 Senator; to the Honorable Barack Obama, United States Senator; to the Honorable
18 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Congressional Delegate, U. S. House of
19 Representatives; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga 'lahen Guåhan*.