




I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
(2007) First Regular Session

Resolution No. 36 (LS)

Introduced by:

F. F. Blas, Jr. 
J. A. Lujan 
Tina Muna-Barnes, 
Edward B. Calvo
James V. Espaldon
Frank Ishizaki
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Mark Forbes

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**Relative to Honoring Maria Perez Leon Guerrero on the
celebration of her 101st Birthday.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:**
2 **WHEREAS,** the limits and well being of our people are not in its land or its
3 location, but in how those who live and work here live their lives; and
4 **WHEREAS,** Maria Perez Leon Guerrero Torres was born on February 11,
5 1906 in Hagåtña, Guam. She is the oldest of eight children and has a twin brother. At
6 an early age, Maria took over as a surrogate mother to her brothers and sisters, helping
7 her mother to raise each of them; and
8 **WHEREAS,** Tan Maria went to work for a woman known as “Vasquez” in a
9 linen and jewelry store located at the current BankPacific in Hagåtña. This was a

1 fitting job, as she loved to sew and enjoyed any type of work that required attention to
2 elaborate detail; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Maria would later marry Jesus Flores Torres, with whom she
4 helped run Flores Brothers, a family business. Together, they raised four children –
5 Margaret, Tito, Mary Lou, and Lagrimas, fondly known as “*Ama*.” Maria’s great
6 capacity to love and care for family is evident in that Margaret was an adopted
7 daughter – the daughter of Tan Maria’s twin brother. Tito (Salas Perez) was a first
8 cousin of Tan Maria whom she reared as her own son; and

9 **WHEREAS**, aside from being a wife and mother, Tan Maria spent her time
10 sewing and doing a form of crocheting or super-fine knitting known in Chamorro as
11 “*tatting*.” Tan Maria is also well-known for decorating the Dulce Nombre de Maria
12 Cathedral-Basilica in Hagåtña and for preparing the *kirosa* (decorated platform on
13 which a statue of the saint whose feast day is being celebrated is mounted for
14 procession) for the procession in honor of the feast of the Santa Marian Kamalen. She
15 also was active in preparing the *lanchon kotpus* (decorated shrines placed at selected
16 homes throughout the procession route in each village at which the procession would
17 stop for prayer) for the *Kotpus Kristi* procession each June; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Tan Maria is often credited, along with long-time friends Tita
19 Souder and Tina Perez, for having been the first to spearhead the traditional
20 decorating of the *kirosa* as it is still done today in Hagåtña. Tan Maria’s daughter,
21 Ama Underwood, credits her mother’s longevity to her father, Jesus Torres. During
22 the liberation of Guam from occupying Japanese forces during World War II, Tan
23 Maria suffered from illness and had to be carried on a stretcher during forced marches
24 just before the arrival of American forces. Ama believes it was her father’s undying
25 love for her mother and his efforts to nourish her back to health that gave her the
26 strength to carry on; now, therefore, be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of
2 the people of Guam, hereby expresses its best wishes to *Tan Maria Perez Leon*
3 *Guerrero* on the celebration of her 101st birthday by saying “*Age is the top of the*
4 *mountain; Nearer the sky so blue; A long hard climb; A bit of fatigue; But oh . . . what*
5 *a wonderful view!*”; now, therefore be it

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify to and the Secretary of the Legislature
7 attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to
8 *Tan Maria Perez Leon Guerrero*; to the Director, Department of Public Health and
9 Social Services; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam’s Delegate to the
10 United States Congress and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga’lahen*
11 *Guåhan*.