

MINA BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 13 (LS)

Introduced by:

T.R. Muña Barnes
R.J. Respicio
A.R. Unpingco
J.T. WonPat
J.P. Guthertz

Relative to celebrating and memorializing the life and accomplishments of Sister Mary Elsa "Sister Elsa" Metternich, SSND, a teacher, mentor, surrogate mother and friend of Guam, and to acknowledge her service benefiting the people of Guam including her years as a teacher and Principal of Mt. Carmel School, and her singular devotion to helping people from all walks of life.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

WHEREAS, Sister Mary Elsa Metternich, lovingly known to her friends, family, students and the many people she has assisted during her nearly 92 years of life as "Sister Elsa," was born on December 12, 1915, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, one of five girls and three boys in a Catholic family; and

WHEREAS, as Sister Elsa likes to say, her education began in kindergarten and has continued throughout her rich and fulfilling life, always taking every opportunity to study and learn as opportunities presented themselves; and

WHEREAS, in her early years, Sister Elsa enriched herself with Catholic magazines, creating a great desire to help others, so much so that attending to the needs of the poor and sick became the paramount desire of her life; and

WHEREAS, after studying to be a teacher and pronouncing her vows she taught and served as a housemother in Grand Rapids, Michigan while hoping and praying to teach Native Americans in Harbor Springs, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Lord had other plans for Sister Elsa, and after her mother passed away in 1954 she heard of a need in the far off Pacific island of Guam, and so she offered to take up the challenge and help fulfill the spiritual needs of the Chamorro people; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving her father's permission, Sister Elsa arrived in Guam on August 22, 1956, one of a group of four Sisters, the others being Sister Rosemarie Manibusan, Sister Fidelis Sudo and Sister Paul Anthony Atkielski; and

WHEREAS, Sister Elsa's first assignment was at Mount Carmel School in Agat, where she became Principal in 1959 and served in that position until 1965 when she left Guam to pursue her Masters degree; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 Sister Elsa returned to Guam and to teaching, serving at St. Francis School in Yona, San Vicente School in Barrigada and also her beloved Mount Carmel School; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 Sister Elsa retired from teaching, but not from helping others, traveling to Yap to assist the government with their school health program for three years and was called on to take up teaching once again for another year, this time for 4th grade students in Ebeye, because there were no other teachers available; and

WHEREAS, Sister Elsa then returned to her home state of Wisconsin and spent her time in the service of the Lord, traveling from state to state and helping those in need; and

WHEREAS, many of Sister Elsa's former students at Mount Carmel School were especially fond of her and kept in touch with her over the

years, the Class of 1962 holding a 35th anniversary reunion in her honor in 1997, the event being a very memorable and successful one and the members of the Class feeling that Sister Elsa is like Mother Theresa to them; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, celebrate and memorialize the life and accomplishments of Sister Mary Elsa "Sister Elsa" Metternich, SSND, a teacher, mentor, surrogate mother and friend of Guam, and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, acknowledge the service of Sister Mary Elsa "Sister Elsa" Metternich, SSND, which has been of great benefit to the people of Guam including her years as a teacher and Principal of Mt. Carmel School, and her singular devotion to helping people from all walks of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mary Elsa "Sister Elsa" Metternich, SSND, to Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF, 2007.