

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

Resolution No. 173 (EC)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
James V. Espaldon
B. J.F. Cruz
R. J. Respicio
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Edward J. B. Calvo
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
J. A. Lujan
Mark Forbes
Frank T. Ishizaki
A. B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. Pangelinan
Dr. David L.G. Shimizu
Ray Tenorio
J. T. Won Pat, Ed. D.

Relative to requesting the Federal government, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Chairpersons and Members of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs, and Guam's Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, to establish a Veterans Regional Office on Guam.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense is poised to effectuate one of the
4 largest movements of military forces from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam by 2015.
5 It is anticipated that this movement will increase Guam's population from one
6 hundred seventy thousand (170,000) to two hundred ten thousand (210,000).
7 With this population increase, combined with the current number of active
8 duty, guard, and reserve service members from Guam who have toured *or* are
9 serving tours of duty in the War on Terror, Guam will realize a dramatic
10 increase in the number of veterans who will be seeking and be in need of
11 veterans services; and

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

20 **WHEREAS**, Guam and the rest of the Micronesian region to date, have
21 had the most soldiers, per capita, killed in our Nation's current war than any
22 other jurisdiction in the United States. During the Vietnam conflict, there
23 were more soldiers, per capita, from Guam that were killed in that war than

1 any other state *or* territory. During World War II, Guam was the only United
2 States possession that was occupied by enemy forces. Although we will never
3 have the opportunity to repay those who have gone before us the debt we
4 owe for their ultimate sacrifice, we can begin to make good for those who are
5 still with us; and

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

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

18 **WHEREAS**, a Guam soldier *or* airman is an American soldier *or* airman,
19 and as such, the Guam veteran is an American veteran and should be treated
20 *no less than* what he *or* she has earned and rightfully deserves; now, therefore,
21 be it

22 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
23 hereby, on behalf of the veterans of Guam, petition the Honorable George W.
24 Bush, President of the United States; James B. Peake, Secretary of the

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

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

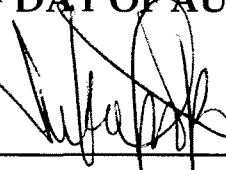
14 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
15 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
16 thereafter transmitted to the Honorable James B. Peake, Secretary of the
17 Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Chairperson and Members of the
18 Senate Veterans Affairs; to the Chairperson and Members of the House
19 Veterans Affairs Committee; to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of
20 the United States of America; to the Honorable John McCain, United States
21 Senator; to the Honorable Barack Obama, United States Senator; to the
22 Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern
23 Mariana Islands; to the Honorable Emanuel Mori, President, Federated States
24 of Micronesia; to the Honorable Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the

1 Republic of Belau; to the Honorable Iroj Litokwa Tomeing, President of the
2 Republic of the Marshall Islands; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo,
3 Guam's Congressional Delegate, U. S. House of Representatives; and to the
4 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 2008.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature