

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

Resolution No. 36 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

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A. B. Palacios, Sr.
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**Relative to Honoring Maria Perez Leon Guerrero Torres on
the celebration of her One Hundred-one (101) Birthday.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN**
2 **GUÅHAN:**
3 **WHEREAS,** the limits and well being of our people are not in its land or
4 its location, but in how those who live and work here live their lives; and
5 **WHEREAS,** *Tan* Maria Perez Leon Guerrero Torres was born on
6 February 11, 1906 in *Hagåtña*, Guam. She is the oldest of eight (8) children and

1 has a twin brother. At an early age, Maria took over as a surrogate mother to
2 her brothers and sisters, helping her mother to raise each of them; and

3 **WHEREAS,** *Tan* Maria went to work for a woman known as “Vasquez”
4 in a linen and jewelry store located at the current BankPacific in *Hagåtña*. This
5 was a fitting job, as she loved to sew and enjoys any type of work that
6 required attention to elaborate detail; and

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

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

24 **WHEREAS,** *Tan* Maria is often credited, along with long-time friends
25 Tita Souder and Tina Perez, for having been the first to spearhead the

1 traditional decorating of the *kirosa* as it is still done today in *Hagåtña*. *Tan*
2 *Maria's* daughter, *Ama Underwood*, credits her mother's longevity to her
3 father, *Jesus Torres*. During the liberation of Guam from occupying Japanese
4 forces during World War II, *Tan Maria* suffered from illness and had to be
5 carried on a stretcher during forced marches just before the arrival of
6 American forces. *Ama* believes it was her father's undying love for her
7 mother and his efforts to nourish her back to health that gave her the strength
8 to carry on; now, therefore, be it

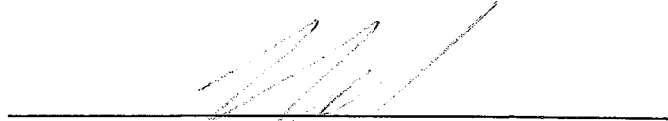
9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
10 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, expresses its best wishes to *Tan*
11 *Maria Perez Leon Guerrero* on the celebration of her One Hundred-one (101)
12 Birthday by saying "*Age is the top of the mountain; Nearer the sky so blue; A long*
13 *hard climb; A bit of fatigue; But oh . . . what a wonderful view!*"; 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 *Tan Maria Perez Leon Guerrero Torres*; to the
17 Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services; to the Honorable
18 *Madeleine Z. Bordallo*, Member of Congress to the United States House of
19 Representatives; and to the Honorable *Felix P. Camacho*, *I Maga'lahaen*
20 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 19TH DAY OF APRIL 2007.



MARK FORBES
Speaker



RAY TENORIO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature