



THE SENATE
Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P. O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

32-14-1859
Office of the Speaker
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Date 7/22/14
TIME 9:30 AM
REC'D BY [Signature]

July 14, 2014

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.
Speaker
32nd Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Madam Speaker Won Pat:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith a certified copy of Senate Resolution No.18-34, entitled: "Honoring the life and achievements of Senator Vicente ("ben") Cabrera Pangelinan for his 20 years of distinguished public service and his outstanding contributions to the people of Guam and the Marianas," which was adopted on July 10, 2014 by the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten Signature]
Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachment

2014 JUL 22 AM 9:43



**THE SENATE
EIGHTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18-34

Introduced by: Senators Pete P. Reyes, Ralph DLG. Torres, Ray N. Yumul, Joaquin H. Borja, Francisco M. Borja, Francisco Q. Cruz, Victor B. Hocog, Jovita M. Taimanao, Paul A. Manglona

A SENATE RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and achievements of Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan for his 20 years of distinguished public service and his outstanding contributions to the people of Guam and the Marianas.

1 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Senate pause
2 to commemorate the memory and achievements of the late Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera
3 Pangelinan; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan, affectionately known as “Senator
5 ben” was born on October 22, 1955 in Saipan to parents Francisco Sablan Pangelinan and Luisa
6 Cabrera Pangelinan; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan and his family moved to Guam
8 when he was very young. He grew up in the village of Barrigada; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan grew up bilingual speaking English
10 and Chamorro; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan went to San Vicente Elementary
12 School and graduated from Father Duenas Memorial School in 1974; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan pursued a higher education at the
14 prestigious Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in
15 Government; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan has been bestowed the Pacific
17 American Foundation (PAF) Fellowship and the Toll Fellowship from the Council of State
18 Governments; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan, at an early age was always
20 interested in government service and worked as a staff assistant to the Office of the Guam Delegate,
21 Antonio G. Won Pat in Washington, D.C. while attending college; and

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18-34

1 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan also worked for the late Governor
2 Ricardo J. Bordallo upon returning to Guam; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan subsequently worked with
4 FHP/HML Guam, a HMO doing business in Guam, Saipan and California. He had numerous
5 positions consisting of Member Relations Officer, Guam Director of Government and Public Affairs,
6 Associate Director of Operations and the Regional General Manager; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan’s tenure in the Guam Legislature
8 began in the 22nd Guam Legislature; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan was re-elected by the people of
10 Guam to the 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th, 31st legislatures and currently served in the 32nd
11 Guam Legislature; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan was Speaker in the 27th Guam
13 Legislature; and

14 **WHEREAS**, throughout his political career, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan has
15 held the Chairmanship of various Committees, including land, taxation, banking and retirement. For
16 the past two terms, Senator Ben has chaired the Committee on Appropriations; and

17 **WHEREAS**, as Chairman for the Committee on Appropriations and the Office of Finance and
18 Budget, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan gained support from the Executive Branch to
19 pass a fiscal year line item budget that was organized and balanced completed in an unprecedented
20 time frame never seen in the government of Guam. His budget reflected the priorities of education,
21 health and safety in the allocation resources; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in addition to serving as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations,
23 Taxation, Public Debt, Banking, Insurance, Retirement and Land, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera
24 Pangelinan also held the position of Vice Chair for the Committee on Education and a member of the
25 Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs, Committee on Health & Human
26 Services, Economic Development, Senior Citizens and Election Reform, Committee on Municipal
27 Affairs, Tourism, Housing and Recreation and the Committee on Guam Military Buildup and
28 Homeland Security; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan has never shied away from
30 controversy and has championed many issues avoided by many. He fought for the government of
31 Guam retirees to receive their cost of living allowance and after more than 15 years, retirees received
32 what was legally owed to them; and

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18-34

1 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan has led the fight for a fair and open
2 government on the Legislative floor and in the highest courts of Guam, the Ninth Circuit of Appeals,
3 and the United States Supreme Court; and

4 **WHEREAS**, responding to business challenges, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan
5 streamlined services and established the one-stop permit program to assist existing and new business.
6 Senator Ben wrote the Guam Business Corporations Act, the first major update of the law in over 30
7 years to increase opportunities for investments to improve the economy; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan was a steadfast protector of the
9 natural resources of Guam. He authored legislation declaring that the property in and the right to the
10 use of all water, at any time in a stream, river or other surface sources and water located beneath the
11 ground and in the aquifer in Guam are vested in the government of Guam; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan was a champion of Guam’s quest
13 for self-determination. Senator Ben submitted testimonies to the United Nations Special Political
14 Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) to advocate for Guam’s inalienable right to self-
15 determination; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan advocated for the importance of the
17 cultural preservation of Guam by enacting legislation that created the “Hatdin Amot Chamorro” which
18 identifies a portion of Chamorro Land Trust lands specifically to grow herbal medicinal plants for
19 “Suruhanus” and “Suruhanas” to use for traditional medicines; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan understood the importance of
21 nurturing our environment and introduced legislation promoting the development of renewable energy
22 to require the Guam Power Authority to establish renewable portfolio standard goals. His legislation
23 established the first ever net-metering program, which credits homeowners who install renewable
24 energy production capacity; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan also had vast business experience.
26 He was President/Owner of Group Pacific Suppliers, Principal Consultant/President of Pacific
27 Presence Group and Founding Director of Graphic center, Inc. and Micronesia Graphics, Inc. He was
28 also Director of Fifth Wheel, Inc.; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan’s passion and advocacy for
30 government self-determination and cultural preservation extended to the Commonwealth and its
31 people; and

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18-34

1 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan often shared his legislative
2 knowledge and expertise with Commonwealth legislators and his legislative proposals were readily
3 accessible to the Commonwealth legislature for consideration and adoption; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on June 29, 2014, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan, who was
5 battling a debilitating illness, announced that he was retiring from the legislature after 20 years of
6 service to the people of Guam; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan issued the following statement
8 regarding his retirement:

9 “For 20 years, I have had the honor of serving the public with the love and support
10 of my family and the willingness and courage to do what is in the best interest of
11 the people of Guam. This year, I have put great thought into and consideration for
12 my family and giving them that same love and support they have given me these
13 past years when thinking about my decision for the future.”

14 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan was called to eternal life on July 8,
15 2014 at the Guam Memorial Hospital, at the age of 59; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan’s memories will live in the hearts
17 of his sisters Maria “Mercy” Reyes and Jesusa “Sue” Williams, brother Antonio Pangelinan, his nieces
18 and nephews, and his special friend Therese Terlaje ; and


19 **WHEREAS**, the Island of Guam and its people, and the Commonwealth are forever grateful
20 to the late Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan for his twenty years of distinguished service
21 and his outstanding contributions to the community; now, therefore

22 **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
23 Legislature, that the Senate hereby joins the people of the Guam to express its deepest condolences and
24 heartfelt sympathies to the family of Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan for their sorrow and
25 loss; and to honor and acknowledge Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan’s 20 years of service
26 to the people of Guam as an honorable statesman, passionate leader and dedicated public servant; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall certify, and the Senate
28 Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution and thereafter the Senate Clerk
29 shall transmit certified copies to the bereaved family of Senator Vicente (“ben”) Cabrera Pangelinan;
30 the Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D., Speaker of the 32nd Guam Legislature; the Honorable Eddie
31 B. Calvo, Governor of Guam; the Honorable Joseph P. Guerrero, Speaker of the House; Honorable
32 Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Honorable Gregorio
33 “Kilili” Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE ON JULY 10, 2014.

CERTIFIED BY:



RALPH DLG. TORRES
President of the Senate

ATTESTED BY:



JOVITA M. TAIMANAO
Senate Legislative Secretary