



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Office of the Governor of Guam
P.O. Box 2950, Hagåtña, Guam

Felix Perez Camacho
Governor

Kaleo Scott Moylan
Lieutenant Governor

DEC 03 2004

TYPE: 541 (1) AM 1:15 PM
RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

The Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan
Speaker
Mina' Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hessler Street
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. 324 (COR), "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315, TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLDIERS, BY *ADDING* A NEW §79601.1 TO TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," which I signed into law on December 3, 2004 as **Public Law No. 27-120**.

Sinseru yan Magåhet,

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'låhen Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Attachment: copy attached of signed bill

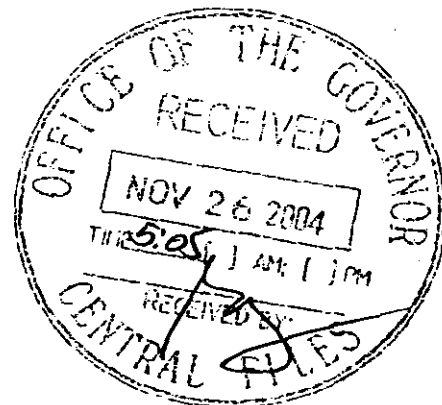
cc: The Honorable Tina Rose Muna-Barnes
Senator and Legislative Secretary



MINA' BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
TWENTY-SEVENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
155 Hessler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

November 26, 2004

The Honorable Felix P. Camacho
I Maga'lahaen Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'lahi
Hagåtña, Guam 96910



Dear *Maga'lahi* Camacho:

Transmitted herewith are Bill Nos. 126(COR), 251(COR), 257(LS), 259(LS), 283(COR), 293(COR), 307(COR), 335(COR), 344(LS), 345(LS), 347(LS), 351(COR), 380(COR), 385(COR) & 387(COR), and Substitute Bill Nos. 282(COR), 290(COR), 324(COR) & 353(COR) which were passed by *I Mina' Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on November 24, 2004.

Sincerely,

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Senator and Legislative Secretary

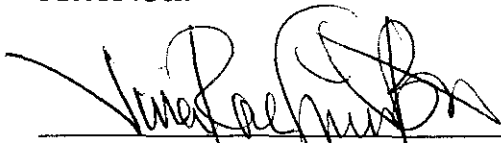
Enclosures (19)

I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2004 (SECOND) Regular Session

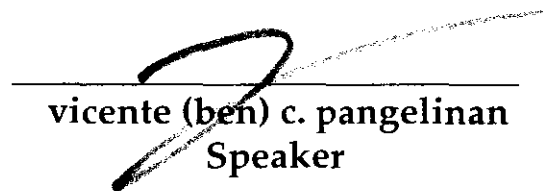
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 324 (COR), "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315, TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLDIERS, BY ADDING A NEW §79601.1 TO TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," was on the 24th day of November, 2004, duly and regularly passed.

Attested:

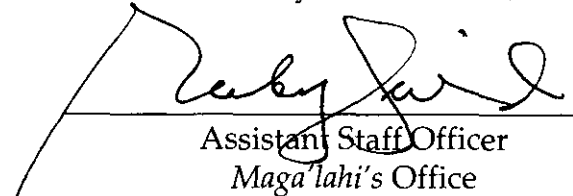


Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Senator and Legislative Secretary



vicente (ben) c. pangelinan
Speaker

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* this 26th day of November, 2004,
at 5:05 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'lahi's Office

APPROVED


FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'lahen Guåhan

Date: December 3, 2004

Public Law No. 27-120

I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2004 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 324 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee on Community,
Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting,
and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
J. M. Quinata
T. R. Muña Barnes
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
J. M.S. Brown
F. R. Cunliffe
Carmen Fernandez
Mark Forbes
L. F. Kasperbauer
R. Klitzkie
L. A. Leon Guerrero
J. A. Lujan
Toni Sanford
Ray Tenorio

**AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE
PURPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315, TO USE A
PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A
MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED
COMBAT SOLDIERS, BY ADDING A NEW §79601.1 TO
TITLE 21, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*
3 finds that the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter 1315,
4 wishes to use a portion of the Skinner Plaza to establish a memorial
5 monument, honoring all Purple Heart recipients, particularly those who

1 made the ultimate sacrifice in service of our country to protect our freedom
2 and liberty. The Purple Heart is a military decoration bestowed to any
3 member of the United States Armed Forces who, while serving with the
4 United States Armed Services, has been wounded or killed in action. The
5 Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only combat organization
6 chartered by the United States Congress.

7 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the Skinner Plaza is located
8 within the Guam Capitol District, and pursuant to 21 GCA §79601, the
9 Guam Capitol District is within the Guam Legislature's control and
10 supervision.

11 It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to grant the Military
12 Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter 1315, the authority to erect a
13 monument within the Skinner Plaza.

14 **Section 2.** A new §79601.1 is hereby *added* to Article 6 of Chapter
15 79 of Subpart E of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

16 "§79601.1. The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam
17 Chapter 1315, is hereby authorized to erect a memorial monument in
18 the Skinner Plaza, next to the monument of General Douglas
19 MacArthur, in honor of the service and sacrifices of the Purple Heart
20 recipients; *provided* the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam
21 Chapter 1315, (a) does not occupy more than twenty feet (20') in
22 length and twenty feet (20') in width of the Skinner Plaza; (b)
23 submits to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* the plan and design of the
24 monument for legislative approval by statute or resolution; and (c)
25 does not hold the Government of Guam liable or responsible for any

1 expenses related to the construction or maintenance of the monument
2 authorized herein.”

3 **Section 3. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Act or its
4 application to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid or
5 contrary to law, such invalidity shall *not* affect other provisions or
6 applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid
7 provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
8 severable.



SENATOR TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY, CULTURE, RECREATION & PUBLIC BROADCASTING
Mayor's Council; Bureau of Women's Affairs; Department of Chamorro Affairs; GUAM MUSEUM,
CHAMORRO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE; Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities; Guam Historic Preservation
Trust; Department of Parks & Recreation; Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation

I MINA' BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
TWENTY SEVENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
155 Hesler St., Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 472-3455 • Fax (671) 472-3400

October 13, 2004

The Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan
Speaker
I Mina' Bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guåhan
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RECEIVED
KNOWLEDGEMENT
Received by: AK
Date: 10:08 AM
10-15-04

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The **Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting**, to which the below was referred, wishes to report its findings and recommendations **TO DO PASS AS SUBSTITUTED:**

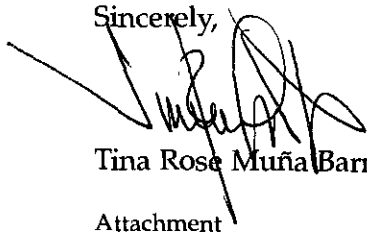
Bill No. 324 (COR) As Amended by the Author and substituted by the Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting, "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315 TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLIDERS."

The voting record of the members of the Committee is as follows:

TO PASS:	<u> 8 </u>
TO NOT PASS:	<u> 0 </u>
TO ABSTAIN:	<u> 0 </u>
OFF ISLAND:	<u> 0 </u>

A copy of the committee report and other pertinent documents are attached for your reference.

Sincerely,


Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Attachment



SENATOR TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY, CULTURE, RECREATION & PUBLIC BROADCASTING
Mayor's Council; Bureau of Women's Affairs; Department of Chamorro Affairs; GUAM MUSEUM,
CHAMORRO LANGUAGE AND CULTURE; Guam Council on the Arts & Humanities; Guam Historic Preservation
Trust; Department of Parks & Recreation; Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation

I MINA' BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
TWENTY SEVENTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
155 Hessler St., Hagåtña, Guam 96910
(671) 472-3455 • Fax: (671) 472-3400

VOTING SHEET

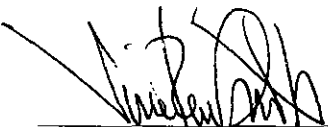
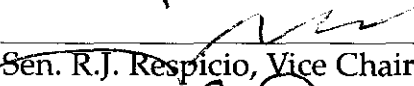


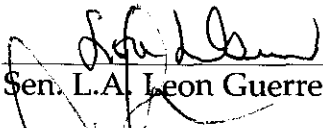
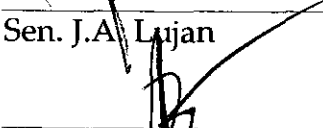

Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation & Public Broadcasting

SUBJECT MATTER: Bill No. 324 (COR) As Amended by the Author and substituted by the Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting, "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315 TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLIDERS."

Introduced:
Public Hearing:

June 18, 2004
September 9, 2004

TO DO PASS TO NOT PASS TO ABSTAIN OFF ISLAND

 Sen. T.R. Muña Barnes, Chairperson	✓			
 Sen. R.J. Respicio, Vice Chairperson	✓			
 Vice Speaker F.B. Aguiar, Jr. 10/13/04	✓			
 Sen. F.R. Cunliffe	✓			
Sen. L.F. Kasperbauer				
 Sen. L.A. Leon Guerrero	✓			
Sen. J.A. Lujan				
 Sen. J.M. Cinata	✓			
 Sen. A.D. Sanford	✓			



MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

**COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY, CULTURE,
RECREATION & PUBLIC BROADCASTING**

**SENATOR TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
CHAIRPERSON**

Committee Report

Bill No. 324 (COR) As Amended by the Author and substituted by the Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting, **"AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315 TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLIDERS."**

Introduced on June 18, 2004

Public Hearing conducted on
September 9, 2004

I. INTRODUCTION

Bill No. 324 (COR) "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315 TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLDIERS" was introduced by Speaker v.c. pangelinan with Senator R.J. Respicio as a co-sponsor.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

The Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation, and Public Broadcasting (CCRP) conducted a public hearing beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2004 on Bill 324 (COR) in the Legislative Public Hearing Room, *I Liheslaturan Guahan*, in Hagåtña. Public notice was provided September 2nd and 7th, 2004.

CCRP Committee Chair Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes called the public hearing to order. Vice Chair Senator Rory J. Respicio, Speaker v.c. pangelinan, Senator Robert Klitzkie and Senator John M. Quinata were also present.

Those who signed up to give oral testimony were Mr. Juan Cepeda, Mr. Francisco Lizama, Mr. Frank Artero and Mr. Benjamin Garrido.

III. TESTIMONY

CCRP Chairperson Senator Muña Barnes began by yielding to Vice Chair Senator R.J. Respicio, who said the bill was introduced as per request by Guam Chapter 1315 to erect a monument that reflected Guam's appreciation of the fine men and women who have put their lives on the

line for the freedoms we enjoy today. He said this bill will gain the full support of this Committee.

Senator Muña Barnes then called Mr. Juan Cepeda, Mr. Francisco Lizama, Mr. Ben Garrido and Mr. Frank Artero to the witness table to testify.

Mr. Juan Cepeda, U.S. Army veteran, was first to testify. He read his written testimony that fully supported Bill 324 (COR). He said that although America has no King or Queen, it does have nobility and that nobility are its veterans who have put Guam on the map and exhibited loyalty, courage and integrity. He said that he was awarded a Purple Heart medal and that he wears it with pride. He noted that the medal symbolizes patriotism in defense of a great nation and demonstrates to our youth that freedom comes with sacrifice and blood and is not free.

Mr. Lizama next read aloud the written statement of Mr. Jack Shimizu, Commander. Mr. Shimizu's testimony points to the uniqueness of the Military Order of the Purple Heart as being the only combat organization chartered by Congress. It stated that the single bond that unites its members is that each has sustained a wound inflicted by an enemy in combat. It noted that the proposed memorial would perpetuate the heroic service of our combat wounded veterans and active military. Mr. Shimizu wrote that such a memorial would pay tribute to all the past and present freedom fighters who have been willing to sacrifice themselves to ensure our freedom and liberty.

Mr. Frank Artero testified next in support of Bill 324 (COR). He read his written testimony that stated that although the veterans don't consider themselves heroes, they are humbled and honored by this recognition. Mr. Artero spoke of the all the nameless young men and women who have

gone before us as servants of valor and defenders of freedom. He said this memorial honors all of them and is fully supported because of that.

Mr. Ben Garrido, who received a Purple Heart for wounds he received in the Vietnam War, testified next. He joined Mr. Cepeda in thanking Senator Respicio for his thoughtful comments on the importance on Bill 324. Mr. Garrido said Guam veterans often remind each other that Guam soldiers receive the most wounds per capita than any other place in America. He noted that while in Washington D.C. in March of that year, he was moved that Guam was so duly recognized in the nation's capital. He said that all the veterans ask is that a small portion be reserved for a memorial in honor of those wounded in combat. He noted that it is common knowledge that people from Guam consistently prove to be the most patriotic and loyal Americans. He said the headquarters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Virginia immediately offered the veterans of Guam a monument when they requested one. He closed by thanking his fellow veterans for their presence.

CCRP Chairperson Senator Muña Barnes then welcomed Speaker v.c. pangelinan for his attendance and yielded to him as the Author of Bill 324 (COR). He spoke briefly to say that the bill is simple and merely accords honor to the men and women of our Armed Forces who deserve such a tribute for giving a portion of their lives to our freedom.

Senator Muña Barnes yielded next to Senator Klitzkie who asked about what the monument would look like. Mr. Lizama responded by describing it as being uniform to other Purple Heart monuments erected throughout the U.S.

Senator Muña Barnes then yielded to Senator Quinata who said he was in full support of Bill 324 (COR) which honors all our veterans and that he looks forward to seeing the monument erected.

Senator Muña Barnes yielded to Senator Respicio who thanked Speaker Pangelinan for authoring the bill and noted that the Committee only had one amendment to Bill 324 (COR), to add the phrase "The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only combat organization chartered by Congress" to Section 1.

Senator Muña Barnes closed by thanking the veterans for all they have done to protect the freedoms we enjoy today, and said that she hoped to have this report done expeditiously. There being no further testimony from the attendees and Senators, Senator Muña Barnes declared Bill No. 324 (COR) to have been publicly heard.

Additional written testimony was submitted at the close of the public hearing by Mr. Thomas Morrison, Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation. Mr. Morrison wrote that the department was in support of Bill 324 (COR) and declared that Skinner Plaza would be an appropriate area to place the memorial monument to honor all wounded combat soldiers as other memorial monuments commemorating various war eras are placed there.

IV. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting finds that the following proposed amendment to Bill No. 324 (COR) is just and valid and should be included in a substitute version of the bill:

1. Added to Section 1, line 10 shall be the sentence: The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only combat organization chartered by Congress.”

The Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting hereby reports out Bill No. 324 (COR), as amended, with the recommendation to do pass.



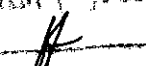
SIGN-IN SHEET

SENATOR TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY, CULTURE,
RECREATION & PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Bill No. 324 (COR) - AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, GUAM CHAPTER 1315, TO USE A PORTION OF THE SKINNER PLAZA TO ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO HONOR ALL WOUNDED COMBAT SOLDIERS.

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL
Anthony S. Perez	MOPH	✓			
Robert M. Robinson	MOPH	✓			
Francisco M. Santos	MOPH	✓			
Jeffrey H. Baker	MOPH	✓			
A. D. ...	MOPH	✓			
Anisia Terape	DLM / VFW Post 2917	✓			
...	MOPH	✓			
THOMAS C MENDIOLA	MOPH	✓			
Cris Tedtao	MOPH	✓			
Joseph A. Lim-guerreo	MOPH	✓			
Jesus P. Agnon	MOPH	✓			
Nick Francisco	MOPH	✓			
July M. ...	MOPH	✓			

AUG 25 2004

TIME: 8:05 AM 1 PM
RECEIVED BY: 


Madam Chairwoman, Members of the Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broad Casting.

On behalf of the Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Guam Chapter 1315, I would like to thank you for holding this public hearing on Bill 324, and a personal thank you to the author of Bill 324.

Although section 1 of Bill 324 spell out the findings and intent. I would also like to impart on this committee that the Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only combat organization that is chartered by Congress. There is a proud history to an award which was created for gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity. The order to establish the first Purple Heart was issued by General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. The official papers that were signed by General Washington was saved from burning during the war of 1812. The famous award was revived in 1932 by President Hoover and General Douglas MacArthur. Today, as in the past, the single bond that unites members of the order is that each has sustained a wound inflicted by an enemy in combat. There is no exclusion by war or branch of service. The member's common bond is that they have given of their own blood.

The purpose of the Purple Heart Memorial is to perpetuate the heroic service of our combat wounded veterans and active military, Naval and Air Forces through the construction of a permanent memorial focused on the men and women from all wars and conflicts, who have served and are still serving for the freedoms we all enjoy today. Most importantly, to recognize and acknowledge the suffering and sacrifices of all the families and individuals who were touched by war and armed conflict and for them to know that the love for their husbands, wives, children, brothers, sisters, or someone close to them has not been forgotten. This memorial is to pay tribute to all the past and present combat wounded of America's Armed Forces, to emphasize the fact that it was by the grace of God we had these men and women willing to sacrifice themselves, body and soul to insure our freedom and liberty.

In closing, on behalf of the Patriots of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter 1315, we would like to say Un Dangkolu Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase.


Jack S. Shimizu
Commander

From: Cora Cepeda [mailto:cepedaco@ite.net]
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2004 9:27 AM
To: senben@kuentos.guam.net
Subject: Written Testimony for the Military of Purple Heart
Asso.

My name is Juan R. CEPEDA, U.S. Army veteran and medically retired due to combat related wounds, which qualified me to receive the "Purple Heart Medal."

I stand before this august body to support and endorse a request of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter seeking to have the 27th Guam Legislature authorize a small site at the Skinner Plaza to put in place a monument which would recognize our veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal earned from action in combat environment.

America has no kings or queens but we do have nobility--our nobility is called the U.S. Veteran. And Guam is very fortunate to have them. They have basically placed Guam on the map exhibiting their loyalty, integrity and character all of which equal leadership. And they have now deployed amongst our citizenry giving them expertise in many areas and facets for the betterment of our community and dedicated to our youth programs.

I, as many of my fellow elite veterans, was awarded the medal. I wear it with pride...as we have shed blood for this great country of ours--America.

This medal is a sign of patriotism, a symbol of sacrifice, support, and defense of a great nation. And lastly, the Purple Heart medal is worn to signal the importance of courage and to demonstrate for to our youth that freedom is not free but comes with sacrifice, blood, and often times giving their all--for Country, Honor, and GOD.

SSgt Juan R. Cepeda, U.S. Army (Ret).
PHONE: 734-3155 Mangilao, Guam



Felix P. Camacho
Governor

Kaleo S. Moylan
Lt. Governor

**PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**
DIPATTAMENTON PLASET YAN DIBUETSION
GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

490 Chalan Palayso
Agana Hts. Guam 96910
Telephone: (671) 475-6296/7
Facsimile: (671) 477-0997



Thomas A. Morrison
Director

Gregory A. Matanane
Deputy Director

AUG 20 2004

Honorable Vicente (Ben) C. Pangelinan
Speaker, Mina' Bente Siete Na
Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hesler Street
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Office of the People's Speaker
vicente (ben) c. pangelinan

AUG 27 2004

TIME: 5:00 (1AM / 1PM)
RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Dear Speaker Pangelinan:

Thank you for allowing us to comment on Bill No. 324, An Act to Authorize the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter 1315, to use a portion of the Skinner Plaza to establish a Memorial Monument to honor all wounded combat soldiers.

This department is in support of Bill 324. Skinner Plaza would be an appropriate area to place the memorial monument to honor all wounded combat soldiers as other memorial monuments commemorating various war eras are placed at the Skinner Plaza.

Once again, Department of Parks and Recreation is in support of Bill No. 324.

THOMAS A. MORRISON
Director

My name is Juan R. CEPEDA, U.S. Army veteran and medically retired due to combat related wounds, which qualified me to receive the "Purple Heart Medal."

I stand before this august body to support and endorse a request of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter seeking to have the 27th Guam Legislature authorize a small site at the Skinner Plaza to put in place a monument which would recognize our veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal earned from action in combat environment.

America has no kings or queens but we do have nobility—our nobility is called the U.S. Veteran. And Guam is very fortunate to have them. They have basically placed Guam on the map exhibiting their loyalty, integrity and character all of which equal leadership. And they have now deployed amongst our citizenry giving them expertise in many areas and facets for the betterment of our community and dedicated to our youth programs.

I, as many of my fellow elite veterans, was awarded the medal. I wear it with pride...as we have shed blood for this great country of ours—America.

This medal is a sign of patriotism, a symbol of sacrifice, support, and defense of a great nation. And lastly, the Purple Heart medal is worn to signal the importance of courage and to demonstrate for to our youth that freedom is not free but comes with sacrifice, blood, and often times giving their all—for Country, Honor, and GOD.

**SSgt Juan R. Cepeda, U.S. Army (Ret).
PHONE: 734-3155 Mangilao, Guam**

Good Morning

We are here today to provide testimony for Bill No 324, “ An act to authorize the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter 1315, to use a portion of the Skinner Plaza to establish a Memorial Monument to Honor ALL wounded combat soldiers.”

We are honored and humbled to receive the “Purple Heart Medal,” but we don’t consider ourselves heroes.

We were just as scared as the next soldier when bullets come in our direction. But we knew the nature of our profession and duty.

I’m not only talking about myself, but the other millions of young men and women who have served and continue to serve in combat.

Some like myself, were young when we were called to serve and others volunteered. We grew old quickly and some of us fought and died so that others and our children could live in freedom.

Today, we are elderly men and soon our time will end on this earth.

This is why I am asking the committee to support and pay a tribute to the men and women who have served their country with such valor in war.

These are the men and women who fought for freedom and continue to fight for freedom. Their courage and sacrifice are the reasons we enjoy such freedoms.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Guam Chapter 1315, hopes to provide a Memorial Monument to Honor all wounded combat soldiers.

After all, if the current generation of Americans do not understand the sacrifices that made it possible for them to live in freedom, how can we expect them to preserve freedom for their children and future generations to come.

Thank you.



Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

It is definitely a combat decoration.

The Order of the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces or Coast Guard of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of an enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.



Intrinsically, the Purple Heart is the world's costliest decoration--- nineteen separate operations are required to make it from the rough heart stamped from bronze to the finished medal plated with gold and enameled in various colors, suspended from a purple and white ribbon

The Only Congressionally Chartered Veterans Organization Exclusively for Combat Wounded Veterans. The Veterans awarded the Purple Heart are proud to be members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. This group of patriots serves as a reminder to our nation and to the world that we have shed blood for our country, as we fight to defend our freedom. The Order deserves the full support of all those who are eligible for membership." Membership in the Military Order of the Purple Heart is limited by public law to "...persons who have received the Purple Heart during combat..." There is a proud history to this award which was created for "gallantry but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service." Composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients, it is the only veteran's service organization comprised strictly of "combat" veterans.

The order to establish the first Purple Heart was issued by George Washington during the Revolutionary War. The official papers, signed by Washington, were saved from burning during the War of 1812. The famous award was revived in 1932 by President Hoover and General Douglas Macarthur. The revived form is in metal, instead of perishable cloth, made in the shape of a rich purple heart bordered with gold, with a bust of Washington in the center and the Washington coat-of-arms at the top. The latter is believed to have been the source of the stars and stripes of the American Flag.



Today, as in the past, the single bond that unites members of the Order is that each has sustained a wound inflicted by an enemy in combat. There is no exclusion by war or branch of service.



The Purple Heart" is an American decoration; the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common enlisted, not officer, soldier. It was created by one of the world's most famed and best loved heroes - General George Washington.

(The Preamble to the Constitution of the Military Order of the Purple Heart)

We, combat veterans of the wars of the United States and recipients of the Purple Heart medal, awarded by the United States Government and founded by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, at a critical time in our history, drawn together by bonds of respect and mutual suffering, have established the Military Order of the Purple Heart, chartered by the Congress of the United States, in order to perpetuate the principles of patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

Through this organization and our membership in it, we hope to be able to preserve and perpetuate those ideals of liberty, justice and the general welfare which are the very foundations of our way of life. We further pledge to foster and enhance those principles which, from the beginning of our national history, have served as a beacon of hope and salvation to the peoples of all nations.

The members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart are patriots. By Patriotism we mean true allegiance to the government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws. Patriotism is devotion to our Country which demands that we do our utmost to make our home, our city, our state and our nation a better place in which to live. In time of emergency we must give all we have of loyalty, service, savings and sacrifice in defense of our Country and our Flag.

We often tell each other that we have the most killed per capita and the most wounded in action. It is estimated that there were over 600 members of the



armed forces wounded during the Vietnam conflict. Still many were wounded during World War II and Korea and several during the gulf war. We are at war today and Americans are shedding their blood around the globe so we can continue to enjoy the so desired freedom.

The chapter has 44 members and growing and we meet on the 3rd

Thursday of each month at 6:00 P.M. (1800) at the conference room of the Office of Veterans Affairs in Tiyan. We have diverse membership from the three services of Army, Navy and Marines. Our membership is open to all branches of the service and all Wars or conflicts with the enemy. If you were awarded the Purple Heart and residing in Guam, request that we notify the National headquarters and assign you to Chapter 1315. If you don't belong to

the Order or have questions concerning the Chapter and would like to join us please call the Chapter Commander at 632-1101. We have plenty of applications on hand. We are recruiting wives and daughters for the ladies auxiliary. As liberators and visitors returning to Guam will express "there is not a single place that is more patriotic than Guam." A small space of the

Paradise is all we ask for to honor the many that gave all and the hundreds that bleed in the battle fields protecting our freedom.

