



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Felix Perez Camacho
Governor

Kaleo Scott Moylan
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor
Vicente C. Pangelinan

DEC 31 2004

4:35
RECEIVED
[Signature]

31 DEC 2004

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. 254 (LS), "AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE, THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND PARK", BY ADDING A NEW §841 TO TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," now designated as **Public Law 27-134**.

Sins eru 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

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

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

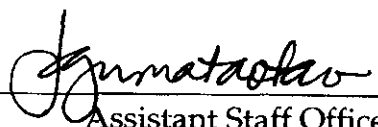
This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 254 (LS), "AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE, THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND PARK", BY ADDING A NEW §841 TO TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," was on the 20th day of December, 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 20 day of December, 2004,
at 5:50 o'clock P.M.


Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'lahi's Office

APPROVED:


FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'lahen Guåhan

Date: December 30, 2004

Public Law No. 27-134

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

Bill No. 254 (LS)

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

Introduced by:

L. A. Leon Guerrero

T. R. Muña Barnes

Carmen Fernandez

F. B. Aguon, Jr.

J. M.S. Brown

F. R. Cunliffe

Mark Forbes

L. F. Kasperbauer

R. Klitzkie

J. A. Lujan

v. c. pangelinan

J. M. Quinata

R. J. Respicio

Toni Sanford

Ray Tenorio

**AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN
TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK
BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE, THE "JUSTICE
JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE MEMORIAL
PLAYGROUND PARK", BY ADDING A NEW §841 TO
TITLE 1, 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 Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague, affectionately known as
4 "Justice," the miracle baby born to Anthony and Lynn Taitague, was

1 diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma in August 2002. Justice, at age five (5),
2 sadly passed away in Loma Linda, California, on February 9, 2003.

3 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that Justice is Guam's littlest hero in a
4 big way. In February 2003, Justice spurred the first ever "Bone Marrow
5 Drive" on Guam that brought thousands of people in the community together.
6 Some were tested as a potential match for bone marrow, others reached into
7 their pockets and gave whatever they could towards her cause. Thousands of
8 dollars were raised and will be used to create a "Justice Foundation" to help
9 other families with children combating this terrible disease. It is unfortunate
10 that Justice passed away before a donor could be matched, *but* because of the
11 drive, many other children's lives may be saved.

12 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to honor Justice by naming the
13 playground park behind the Umatac Mayor's Office, the "Justice Josephine
14 Gofigan Taitague Memorial Playground Park" and to further extend our
15 condolences to her family and thank them for keeping Justice's spirit alive
16 among all of us.

17 **Section 2. A new §841 is hereby *added* to Title 1, Guam Code**
18 **Annotated, to read:**

19 "§841. (a) Naming of the Playground Park. The existing
20 playground park behind the Umatac Mayor's Office in the beautiful
21 village of Umatac is hereby named, the 'JUSTICE JOSEPHINE
22 GOFIGAN TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND PARK'.

23 (b) Signage and Other Changes. Within sixty (60) days, the
24 Department of Public Works is hereby directed to make all appropriate

1 signage and other changes to reflect the new name of the park identified
2 in this Section.”

3 **Section 3. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Act or its application
4 to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such
5 invalidity shall *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Act which
6 can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this
7 end the provisions of this Act are 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 GUAHAN
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 Guahan
155 Hesler St.
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RECEIVED
BY:
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:**

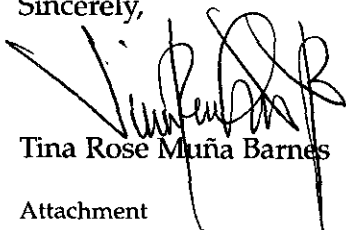
Bill 254 (LS) As Substituted by the Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting: **"AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSPEHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND."**

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

TO PASS: 8
TO NOT PASS: 0
TO ABSTAIN: 0
OFF ISLAND: 0

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 GUAHAN
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 254 (LS) As Substituted by the Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting: "AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSAPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND."

Introduced:
Public Hearing:

January 29, 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. Aguon, Jr.	✓			
 Sen. F.R. Cunliffe	✓			
Sen. L.F. Kasperbauer				
 Sen. L.A. Leon Guerrero	✓			
Sen. J.A. Lujan	✓			
 Sen. J.M. Quinata	✓			
 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 254 (LS) As Substituted by the
Committee on Community, Culture,
Recreation and Public Broadcasting:
**"AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE
JOSPEHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE
BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND
PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC
MAYOR'S OFFICE THE "JUSTICE
JOSEPHINE GOFIGAN TAITAGUE
MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND."**

Introduced on January 29, 2004

Public Hearing conducted on
September 9, 2004

I. INTRODUCTION

Bill 254 (LS) AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSPEHINE G. TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G. TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND," was introduced by Senator L. Leon Guerrero.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

The Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation, and Public Broadcasting (CCRP) conducted a public hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2004 on Bill No 254 (LS) at the Umatac Mayor's Office. Public notice was provided September 2nd and 7th, 2004.

CCRP Committee Chair Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes called the public hearing to order. Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, Senator Toni Sanford, and Senator Rory J. Respicio were present.

III. TESTIMONY

CCRP Chairperson Senator Muña Barnes began by inviting anyone interested in giving oral testimony to sign up. She thanked Mr. and Mrs. Taitague, parents of the late Justice Taitague, for being present and then proceeded by inviting Umatac Mayor Tony Quinata to testify first.

Mr. Quinata read his written statement, which noted that he conducted a survey with village residents regarding their opinions about naming the park behind the Mayor's Office for the late Justice Taitague and every survey that was returned was in favor of naming it in her honor. He noted that the late Justice Taitague accomplished her mission and left behind

both a legacy of our people's compassion and a registry of blood donors that will benefit people in need of such service in the future. He said little Justice has given us hope for the future and because of her, Guam is now part of the National Registry and someone has already been identified who is in need of a bone marrow transplant. He thanked the Senators for allowing the people opportunity to provide comments.

Senator Muña Barnes thanked him and yielded to Bill 254's Author, Senator Leon Guerrero. Senator Leon Guerrero spoke of the pain involved in burying one's child and expressed her deep condolences to the family. She called Justice "Guam's littlest hero" and spoke of the benefits of the registry that her short life brought about. She said that the registry now enables Guam to help the wider world. She said the senators would move this forward as soon as possible during the next session.

CCRP Chairperson Muña Barnes then called Mr. and Mrs. Taitague to the witness table to testify. Mr. Anthony Taitague spoke and thanked the Umatac community and the Senators for their support. He read his written statement, saying that it was an honor that a bill was introduced to name the Umatac park after his daughter. He spoke of his gratitude to Dr. Shieh, a doctor determined to hold Guam's first bone marrow drive for little Justice in 2003. He said that although his daughter passed away before she could benefit from this historical event, her legacy lives on in those whose lives may be saved because of the drive. He urged people to name the park after little Justice because it will bring pride to the village. He said that many historical sites are named after heroes, and because his daughter is a hero, it is an appropriate measure.

Senator Muña Barnes then invited Umatac resident Mr. Dean Sanchez to testify. Mr. Sanchez thanked the community for coming and said he was in

support of Bill 254. He spoke of the increased public support of the Bill he noticed throughout the legislative process. He wondered whether seeing little Justice's name on the sign of the park may hurt the family members by always reminding them of their daughter's passing or inspire them to get involved in other causes within the community. He noted that at the onset of this process to name the Umatac park after Justice, he and other community members did not want to pressure Anthony and Lynn Taitague. He closed by saying he hoped the Taitague family knows what good they have done to bring the community closer together.

Senator Muña Barnes thanked him and invited another community member, Mr. Frank Sanchez, to testify. Mr. Sanchez said that he and the whole community are in full support of the bill and thanked the Senators for introducing it.

Senator Muña Barnes then invited Mr. Mark Terlaje to testify. Mr. Terlaje thanked Umatac residents for having him. He spoke of little Justice touching his life, as he was himself a bone marrow donor whose marrow made a positive match with someone in need in Hawaii. He said Justice is giving people a second chance at life and still reaching out to touch people's lives, and that it is only appropriate to name the park after her.

Senator Muña Barnes thanked him and then invited Youth Congress Member Jermaine Alerta to testify. He read his written statement which offered wholehearted support for Bill 254 and thanked his fellow Youth Congress Members, especially Andrew Dames for first introducing the issue. Mr. Alerta spoke of the bone marrow drive, like Justice's life itself, as being truly inspirational. He noted that it was because of Justice and her situation that Guam residents came together as a community. He said that previous speeches made by both her parents, Anthony and Lynn, were so

humble that they moved him beyond words. He said that her memory “transcends generations” and that the naming of the park is a simple gesture that pales in comparison to the contributions she gave all of us by way of compassion, courage, optimism and love.

Senator Muña Barnes thanked him and invited fellow Youth Congress Member Andrew Dames to testify. Mr. Dames spoke of the legislative process at the Youth Congress level with regard to the issue of naming the park after little Justice. He spoke of the unity he felt among the Congress members who came together on this issue in large part because that is the nature of Justice’s legacy.

Senator Muña Barnes thanked him and called on Justice’s Aunt Arlene Gofigan to read her testimony. She said she was in full support of Bill 254 and she spoke of the greatness of the community’s efforts to support the Taitague family, whether by making cards for little Justice with other children or working with the health care community. She said that as an educator, she went around the island’s schools and spoke to the children about Justice and her condition. She gave copies of poems that other schoolchildren from F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School had made for little Justice and thanked Ms Brigida San Agustin and her daughter for their support.

CCRP Chairperson Senator Muña Barnes thanked her and invited Mr. Thomas Aguon to testify. He said he was in wholehearted support of Bill 254 to name the playground park after the late Justice Taitague.

Senator Muña Barnes read the names of everyone else who had submitted written testimony in support of Bill 254: Ms Shirley Brooks, Ms Teresita Quinata, Ms Eloise Cheguina and Ms Dora Gofigan.

Ms Brooks, a resident of Umatac, wrote that there should be no reason for anyone in the village to oppose Bill 254 and said it was an honor to rename the park after Justice.

Ms Quinata wrote of the very familial nature of Umatac and called little Justice a member of the Umatac family whose search for a marrow donor brought the island together in prayers and hopeful spirits. She wrote that the residents of Umatac want her spirit to live in the young people who come to that playground.

Ms Cheguina echoed the sentiment that little Justice brought us all together in an inspiring way and that naming the park after her will remind everyone "young and old" that life is precious and would mean she can "look down on all the children that play in the playground."

Ms Gofigan wrote that she supported Bill 254 and continues to support Justice's memory by participating in the relay for life events.

Senator Muña Barnes then yielded to Senator Toni Sanford, who addressed the community in Chamorro and said that it was an honor to be there with the family of little Justice and echoes the community's sentiments that it is very appropriate to name the playground park after her. She noted that, like Mr. Terlaje said, Justice is an angel, an angel who truly brought our community together in a good way. She said that the bill honors little Justice and her parents, Tony and Lynn. She thanked her fellow senators Lou Leon Guerrero and Tina Muña Barnes for being there to support the bill and said that she was happy to be a strong supporter of Bill 254, which should arouse no debate at all. She said she thinks it will go through quickly and the playground will be dedicated very soon.

Senator Muña Barnes then yielded to Senator Leon Guerrero, Author of Bill 254. Senator Leon Guerrero thanked Youth Congress Member Andrew

Dames for all his work to bring this issue to the forefront of the Legislature's attention and thanked everyone present for coming out to support the bill.

Senator Muña Barnes said that when Senator Leon Guerrero asked her if the Senators could bring the public hearing to Umatac, she eagerly agreed. She said that little Justice has given us a gift in her blessed life and then welcomed Senator Rory J. Respicio who just arrived. Senator Respicio also commended the Guam Youth Congress for bringing this matter to their attention and thanked Senator Leon Guerrero for introducing the bill. He said that although in a way this is a bittersweet moment, he hoped that renaming the playground after Justice would heal the community and continue to inspire everyone with a legacy of beauty. He closed by saying he hoped that the adults in the Legislature would take their cue from the teenagers in the Youth Congress on this matter.

CCRP Chairperson Senator Muña Barnes noted the importance of bringing public hearings to the people themselves in their home villages. She then thanked the attendees and all those who testified. There being no further testimony from the attendees and Senators, Senator Muña Barnes declared Bill 254 (LS) to have been publicly heard.

Mrs. Lynn Taitague, mother of little Justice, made a request to the Committee after the public hearing to make one change: to spell out Justice's middle name Gofigan. Instead of "The Justice Josephine G. Taitague Park" it should read: The "Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague Park."

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting finds that the following proposed amendment to Bill 254 (LS) is just and valid and should be included in a substitute version of the bill:

The park's name shall be changed from the "Justice Josephine G. Taitague Park" to the "Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague Park."

The Committee on Community, Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting hereby reports out Bill No. 254 (LS) as substituted by the Committee, with the recommendation to do pass.

September 9, 2004



SIGN-IN SHEET

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

Bill No. 254 (COR) - AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G. TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G. TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND."

NAME	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL
TONY A. QUINATA	UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE	✓		✓	✓
DEAN D. SANCHEZ	RESIDENT	✓		✓	✓
TERESITA M. QUINATA	UMATAC MAYOR'S OFFICE	✓		✓	
JERMAINE ALBERTA	GUAM YOUTH CONGRESS	✓		✓	✓
ANTHONY D. TAITAGUE	FATHER OF JUSTICE	✓		✓	✓
LYNN G. TAITAGUE	MOTHER OF JUSTICE	✓			
GARY P. ASUON		✓			
MARY B. SANCHEZ	AUNT	✓			
FRANKIE SANCHEZ	UNCLE	✓			✓

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MUNICIPALITY OF UMATAAC
Post Office Box 786, Hagatna, Guam 96932
Phone: (671) 828—2940/8258
Fax: (671) 828-2676

Testimony of
Tony A. Quinata, Mayor of Umatac
Before the Committee on Community, Culture,
Recreation and Public Broadcasting
9 September 2004

My name is Tony A. Quinata, Mayor and resident of Umatac. I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments On Bill No. 254, AN ACT TO HONOR JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G. TAITAGUE BY NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK BEHIND THE UMATAAC MAYOR'S OFFICE THE "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G. TAITAGUE MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND."

A little over a year ago, I testified in support of Bill No. 15, relative to naming a park in Guam, the Justice Josephine G. Taitague Park. When I heard that the Bill fail to pass, I immediately sent out a survey form, inquiring whether or not the people of Umatac would have any objection to name one of our parks in honor of Justice. Every survey that was returned was in favor of naming the playground park behind the Umatac Mayor's Office in her honor.

For the first time in the history of our island, we have witnessed the compassion of our people and their willingness to give of themselves to help Justice with the first ever bone marrow drive registry on Guam. While Justice eventually left us, her mission was accomplished. We now have a registry of blood donors that would benefit our people who are and would be in need of such service.

Justice's passing is not in vain. She has given us hope for the future. And because of this, she rightly deserves to join those whom we honor so that we, as a people, would not forget the great gift she has left us.

Today, Guam is now a part of the National Registry. Because of this Registry, someone has already been identified who needed a bone marrow transplant.

I thank Mr. Andrew Dames, and the members of the Guam Youth Congress for their thoughtfulness in the initial introduction of honoring Justice via Bill No. 15; Senator Lou Leon Guerrero for introducing Bill No. 254; and Senator Tina Muna Barnes and the Members of this Committee for holding this hearing, and allowing us the opportunity to provide comments.

I rise in support of Bill 254.

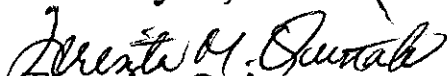
September 9, 2004

The Chamorro culture is not lost here in the village of Umatac. The family unit is still very strong and is kept tightly knitted. Every youth in Umatac is proud to tell anyone who they are and where they are from.

Justice Josephine Taitague is one of our family members of this community. Her search for a bone marrow donor brought the island together both in prayers and spirit in the hope that together we will keep Justice here with us. Two years ago, Justice left us and is now sitting with her creator. We want to keep our families close in our hearts; we want her spirit to live in the life of the youth that come to play in this playground.

By naming this park after her, not only reminds us of our family bonding, but it would let those she left behind keep her spirit alive in both the manamkos and the manhoben. Knowing that every time a youth asks to play in the Justice Taitague's playground, her spirit is alive in all the families here in Umatac and those who come to visit our village.

Thank you,


Teresita Quinata

I support bill 2541

I MINA' BENTE KU^x TTRO NA KONGRESU MANHOBEN GUÅHAN

Twenty-Fourth Guam Youth Congress



REP. JERMAINE ALERTA

Municipality of Agat

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON RULES

e-mail: maineman_shs@hotmail.com

September 9, 2004

Senator Tina Muña-Barnes

Chairwoman; Committee on Community,
Culture, Recreation and Public Broadcasting

Mina' Bente Siete na Liheslaturan Guåhan

155 Hesler Street

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Håfa Adai Senator Muña-Barnes,

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak. My name is Jermaine Alerta and I am a member of the Guam Youth Congress. I appear before you for the sole reason of offering my wholehearted support for Bill 254 (LS). I also want to extend a commendation to my fellow members of the Twenty-Fourth Guam Youth Congress, most especially Andrew Dames, for introducing, addressing and passing legislation regarding the same issue contained in Bill 254 (LS).

The story of Justice Taitague is, like much of her life, truly inspirational. Her battle with T-cell Lymphoma brought attention to a medical condition that not too many had known or heard about. Her situation, along with the unshakable courage that she displayed through it all, prompted thousands of Guam's residents to participate in the "Drive for Justice" at which many were tested to see if they could be bone marrow donors.

This demonstrates the tremendous impact that this one little girl had on her island. It is partly because of her that more people now have a greater chance of finding bone marrow matches, thus increasing their chances of living. It is partly because of this little girl that more and more people are aware of conditions such as lymphoma and are continuing to educate themselves of this and other similar conditions. It is because of Justice that this great island of ours came together, even for just one month in 2003... our island of Guam ALL came together for a worthy cause.

I remember when the Rep. Dames first introduced this bill in the Guam Youth Congress. I, for one, was very much in favor of it. I remember the day that a public hearing was held in Malessso because at that time, I believe, the bill sought to rename the Merizo Pier Park after Justice. The experience is one that I will not forget. Senators Muña-Barnes and Respicio were in attendance. We, the members of the Youth Congress, heard from Dr. Thomas Shieh and Dr. Vince Akimoto, as well as Mayor Rita Tainatongo and numerous village residents. They all had very interesting things to say. But the words that I most took to heart that evening were the words offered by Anthony Taitague, Justice's father. He spoke about his daughter like only a father could.

After that initial hearing, I was, along with the other members, invited to have dinner with some members of Justice's family- most notably her father Anthony, who I mentioned earlier, and her mother Lynn. We spoke at length during our visit. I do, however, have a confession to make: Although I don't recall all that we spoke about one thing is definitely still fresh in my mind... the food was very,



REP. JERMAINE ALERTA

Municipality of Agat

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON RULES

e-mail: maineman_shs@hotmail.com

Page 2

very, very good! All kidding aside, Lynn and Tony both reinforced the fact that, although they appreciated the gesture, they in no way felt it necessary to have anyplace named in honor of their daughter. Humility at its best.

Another hearing was held, this time at the Legislative building in Hagåtña. By this time the bill had already been amended to rename the playground in Umatac after Justice rather than the Merizo Pier Park. In attendance were Mayors Rita Tainatongo and Tony Quinata and, of course, numerous members of Justice's family. The testimony that I most vividly remember from that day was offered by Lynn Taitague. She spoke about many of things she had previously shared with me and other members of the Congress. She also provided testimony- very emotional testimony- in regards to her daughter and her life. One story that I will never forget is about Justice and how she hurt herself while playing in a park and how difficult it is for Lynn to merely drive by the park without thinking of her daughter.

As a person who seldom gets emotional in public, I found it quite difficult to hold back tears while listening to Lynn at that hearing and just hearing about Justice in general. My experience is just a very small example of how Justice had an impact on our island. I never met her. I knew nothing about her. Yet, her story was an eye-opener for me... a rude awakening, so to speak. And I suspect that I wasn't the only one who felt that way.

This is evidenced by the fact that, up until this day, we still speak about Justice Taitague. And her story is remembered by many. If you ask young kids about Justice, most can remember who she was. If you ask our elders, our manamko, about Justice most will flash a little smile, as they too remember what she meant to our island. Her memory transcends generations, upon generations, upon generations. Because at her most difficult time, we, both young and old, wanted to be beside her.

The simple gesture of naming a park after Justice pales in comparison to the contributions she gave by way of compassion, emotion, perseverance, strength, courage, optimism and love- all major components of her life. But it is the least that we can do. The renaming of this park will be a constant reminder to us about who Justice was. But I highly doubt that the people of Guam need that reminder because I believe that each and everyone one of us will never forget that little angel, who touched our lives in more ways than one, Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague.


JERMAINE ALERTA

TESTIMONIAL IN SUPPORT OF NAMING THE PLAYGROUND PARK IN
UMATAC

**“JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G.
TAITAGUE MEMORIAL
PLAYGROUND”**

My name is Anthony Taitague, the father of the late Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague. First of all, I would like to thank Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, Senator Tina Muna Barnes, Senator Rory Ruspicio & their staff for supporting this bill that was introduced by our Youth Congress member, Andrew Dames. I would, also, like to thank Mayor Tony Quinata & most especially the community of Umatac for holding this Public Hearing on renaming the park.

It is an honor that a bill was introduced to name the park, here in Umatac, after Justice. Many people have questioned why name our park after her when there were many children who passed on and whose names were not even considered. Then another question arises, why Justice? We realize that all lives are important, quoting Dr. Shieh's philosophy. But unlike all other situations, Justice's case was unique.

Because of Justice's ordeal with her illness, T-cell lymphoma, she needed a bone marrow transplant. However, the transplant was not possible because a donor match could not be found from the bone marrow registry. A suggestion was made that a bone marrow drive be held here where her blood roots are, but the doctors and others felt that this mission was impossible. Her case was shared and heard by family members whom seek for assistance through our local media. Through them, Dr. Shieh was informed, and with great interest and concern, he took ACTION. With all his hard work and dedication, Dr. Shieh was determined to make the IMPOSSIBLE a REALITY. So with the efforts of our family and friends led by Dr. Thomas Shieh, a first ever bone marrow drive was held on February 1-3, 2003 at the Guam Premier Outlet. This drive would not have benefited only Justice but the many recipients whom may need a transplant someday. What was ironic about this situation was the day Justice passed on, was the same day the blood samples were received at the National Bone Marrow Center in Minnesota. So now, we will never know if she ever had a match. Although Justice passed away only six days after the drive and will not benefit from this historical event, her legacy will live on to those whose lives will be saved.

As we hear and read of possible donors selected from the established bone marrow registry list, my family and I are touched and hopeful that many lives may be spared. Isn't this GREAT? We realize that Justice is gone, but each time a life is saved, a part of our JUSTICE lives on. In fact, an actual bone marrow transplant took place, from the samples collected during the drive, which gave a 21 year old a second chance in life.

This event touched many lives. It brought the whole island together as one community just recovering from a devastating typhoon. Being a part of this community and naming the park after Justice will bring pride to our village and a history to our

island. Wouldn't you be proud to share this remarkable story to our children and visitors every time you pass by the park, the true story of its name?

I am strongly in favor of this bill and urge you to support the bill, not as a family member, but because you believe that naming our playground park after Justice will bring pride to our village as we continue to live her legacy. There are many historical sites famous for being named after heroes. These are names of people whom saved or made a difference in our lives. Isn't it appropriate to name our park after our HERO, JUSTICE?

My dear people of Umatac, please consider the beauty of our park and how much more beautiful it will be by naming it after GUAM'S LITTLE HERO. Let's take this opportunity and decide to name our playground park "JUSTICE JOSEPHINE G. TAITAGUE PLAYGROUND" by supporting Bill 254 (LS).

Anthony David & Lynn Gofigan Taitague
& their son Tate Anthony Gofigan Taitague

Testimony of
Dora Q. Gofigan
#136 Jesus S. Quinata St.
September 09, 2004

Hafa Adai Hamyu Todo,

My name is Dora Q. Gofigan and I would like to share my experience with my niece Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague. My last name is Gofigan and the neighbor of Justice when she lived in Umatac, my daughter Darcey played a lot with Justice. I also supported her by going to the relay for life. And I am for sure in support with the Bill No. 254. and also I have participated in the wave and will continue to do so, for my niece Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague.

I am in support for Bill No. 254

Thank You


Dora Q. Gofigan

*TESTIMONIAL**IT&E PARK TO BE RENAMED TO JUSTICE J.G. TAITAGUE PARK*

This 6 year old little girl pulled together people from all walks of life here on the island of Guam. Mom being from Umatac and dad from Merizo, Justice as we remember her was very active, she loved to run and play. This playground will remind everyone young and old that life is precious and that everyone around willing and able, will help in times of need. It would only feel right that since she was young & active and her purpose in life was to make people come together in a time when it was most needed that this playground be named after her, JUSTICE J.G. TAITAGUE so that she can look down on all the children that play in the playground here in Umatac.

Bill 254
Eloise T. Cheguina

Eloise T. Cheguina

I support

Testimony of
Shirley Q. Brooks
Municipal Clerk Of Umatac
September 09, 2004

My name is Shirley Q. Brooks, I am a chamorro and presently residing in the village of Umatac. Frist of all I will like to thank Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, Senator Tina Muna Barnes, membeers of this committee, and most of all the Guam Youth Congress.

It will be an honor to rename our park, the Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague memorial park. We are all one big family here in the village of Umatac. and I dont see why anyone in this community will oppose on this Bill No. 254. I know that the children in our community will agree in renaming our park the Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague memorial park. I also know it will touch the hearts of the people in this community, or even tourist of other nations.

I have known other children in the past who needed a bone marrow donor in this Island. Thanks to Justice Josephine Gofigan Taitague, for her search for a bone marrow donor. She will always be remembered by the people of Guam.

I support Bill No. 254.

Thank You

Shirley Q. Brooks
Shirley Q. Brooks

9/9/04 and RAISE

Buenas Dias Hamyo Tolo, ^{BORN}
I am a resident of UMATAE and I want
My name is Aileen Spigan ^{to Thank you} for giving
an Auntie to Justice Spigan ^{me} this
Taitague. I just want to share opportunity
my experience as a family and
a community volunteer.

⇒ She attended mtg at SPA prior
w/ Dr Shie as well as those
w/ the Crime for Justice.

⇒ I as well as other class benefited
family member have volunteered
and worked closely with the

From making contacts w/ people, making cards w/ the children of different color or race to feeding the people to show our appreciation of all the wonderful deeds
people from Hawaii for Mr & Mrs Lynn Taitague, but most of all for JUSTICE SOFISAN TAITAGUE

⇒ For the many months she stayed in Calif w/ her family she was in our hearts and in our prayers until she finally was called to rest. Her mission was to bring the island together

As an educator I had made visits to each class here at F.O. Sanchez Elem. ^{to show our appreciation}

But most of all for being there for SUPPORT. Mead

⇒ Before me I would like
to present ^{to the} a copy of the
poems made by our fifth
grade students now 4th
graders at Oceanview Middle
School. And special thanks
to Mrs. Brigidia Agustin and
her daughter Berina Agustin.

⇒ We also have TEAM
JUSTICE who participates
in the Relay for Life.

We are in support of PL 25#

Justice,

If I had a chance to talk to you, it would be like this.

*Every night and day,
I think about the words I want to say.*

*We miss you
and will always pray.*

*You're in our hearts,
and nothing will tear it apart.*

You will always be at my side.

Still, I wish you hadn't died.

Always remember, we think of you.

*So, don't give up
because we're praying for you.*

*Justine Quinata,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003*

Justice,

This is how we feel now that you're gone. I wish that you were still living. Yo, Justice, you are in my mind day and night. Just thinking of you makes me want to cry.

Your family said you are in our hearts and nothing will break it apart. We are keeping that love and keeping you there because we love you, baby girl, with all of our hearts. Nothing I say, one more time, nothing is going to break it apart.

I wish you were here to play hide-and-go-seek!

*Collin Sanchez,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003*

Collin Sanchez

F.Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Justice,

I wish you had stayed alive, every day and every night. You will be by my side tonight. Justice, I know you're my cousin. Sorry girl, but I would give myself up for the world for you, my little cousin.

Your heart and mine will never break apart because I love you with all my might and our love won't stop 'til morning or night. When you wake up the time will be waiting for you.

I want you to come back so we can play hackey-sack.

Love,

Roland Breton,

Umatac, Guam

February 11, 2003

F.Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Roland Breton

Justice,

This is how we feel now that you're gone. I wish that you were still living. Yo, Justice, you are in my mind day and night. Just thinking of you makes me want to cry.

Your family said you are in our hearts and nothing will break it apart. We are keeping that love and keeping you there because we love you, baby girl, with all of our hearts. Nothing I say, one more time, nothing is going to break it apart.

I wish you were here to play hide-and-go-seek!

*Collin Sanchez,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003*

Collin Sanchez

F.Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Justice,

*Every day and every night,
I wish that you were by my side.
Even though I've never met you,
My heart will not forget you.
And if I had the chance to say
We could meet again someday.
I knew you held on tight,
But it hurt in the daylight.
If you could hear me, I'll gladly say
I will always miss you this kind of way.*

Ivana Sanchez,

Umatac, Guam

February 11, 2003

F.Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Justice,

When you are there every day with me, you are my cousin that you can see. I have never seen you in years and all I do is cry out tears. I want you to come back so we all can play hackey-sack. I was thinking that you were holding on tight, but pretty soon, you might see a bright light.

You are a girl that I can see, but we all love you, including me. We miss you so much. We have really been touched. We are praying for you every day and every night, but you are fighting tonight. We all have hearts and we all can't fall apart.

Today, I'm in class, but after school, I'm going to your mass. You are stronger than me, and we all love you.

Always,

Frank Reyes,

Umatac, Guam

February 11, 2003

Frank Reyes

F.Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Justice

If I had a chance to talk to Justice, I would say...

I miss you, girl.

*I keep thinking of you
while everything is sinking.*

*My life is so torn apart,
and I don't even know where to start.*

*I have a feeling in my heart
That my life is going to end
because I just lost a close friend.*

*Jody Aguon,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003
Jody*

If She Was Here

If Justice were alive, I would tell her that we would all miss her. The pain was too much for her.

Justice,

Your fight with cancer is over. Your family and your friends are sad. A lot of people had tried to help, but it was too late. Your cousins Travis and Asia wanted to go to you, but they had to receive their Holy Communion. You passed away. I will also tell your little brother wants you, and although you are in our hearts, you wanted to play with the angels and your wish came true.

They said a bone marrow transplant would give you a 40% chance of survival, but the doctors tried very hard to help you. Our tears for you, Justice, are very strong. You were headed to kindergarten.

When we found out you died, a lot of people were sad. You died on that beautiful day, that one day in February. We will never forget the day you died, February 09, 2003.

In my heart,

*Jaime Topasna,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003*

Jaime Topasna

"Justice"

*Justice, I miss you and everything you said.
Everything and you are still stuck in my head.*

*I just kept thinking
while everything is sinking.*

*I know we are apart,
but you are still in my heart.*

*Now that I know you're not coming,
I feel so lonely.*

*Feeling this way, it's like my life is going to end
because it feels like I just lost a close friend.*

*I still miss you and I still care,
even if you are not here.*

*Chanel Nauta,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003*

Chanel Nauta

F.Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Justice,

*If you were here right now,
face to face with me,
I would say you are like my cousin Flora.
She's supposed to be in the same grade as me,
but she died when she was born.
She is almost like you,
but I know you went through a lot of stuff
like needles, and x-rays, and a lot of hospitals.*

*She will now, at last,
go play with the angels up in heaven.
She will always watch us
in happiness and braveness.*

She will help God and God will help her.

*Zamar Aguon,
Umatac, Guam
February 11, 2003*

Zamar Aguon
F. Q. SANCHEZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In Loving Memory of
Justice Josephine G. Taitague



While the entire world was bickering, this little girl, she knew
That God had handpicked and guided her, amongst us, me and you.
She couldn't stand the suffering, but we didn't want to let her go.
I guess we knew we'd miss her. Now the world moves oh, so slow.
Little Justice, if you hear me, it'll be hard to move on.
This morning cut right through me when I found out you were gone.
It's almost unbelievable that you would leave so soon.
People have grown much bigger hearts, and it's all because of you.
For mommies and daddies on this little island, and all across the world,
You weren't just Justice Taitague. You were the strongest little girl.
You made people come together; learn the goodness of our hearts.
And in such short time we've known you, can't imagine us apart.
It isn't fair to see you go, so innocent, so young.
Although I may not have seen it, you were the one that was so strong.
You held on for just a little while, but the pain was just too much.
Outside you were just a five-year-old, but you had an angel's touch.
You told your daddy you were tired, hugged your mommy countless times,
Said you wanted to play with the angels. Now you're always on our minds.
You've grown so much in eighteen months. You were wise beyond your years.
We'll remember you and your warm smile, while we try to fight these tears.
Justice, everyone will miss you, every second of every day.
Still, we can't believe you left us, only wish you could've stayed.
In your innocent brown eyes, we found comfort, safe and true.
And Justice, if you're listening, please, know that we love you.

Love,
Sherina L. Agustin,
Agat, Guam
February 10, 2003