I MINA TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHOR REPORT FILED	NOTES
200-36 (LS)	Sabina Flores Perez	Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 3368, the "Lomie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief Act," introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on May 20, 2021, because it seeks to correct injustice, clarify the eligibility of affected veterans, and expedite the processing of veteran claims of health conditions caused by Agent Orange exposure in Guam, and advocating for an amendment to H.R. 3368 that reflects the correct dates of Agent Orange use in Guam.	3:47 p.m.		12/6/21	10/29/21	Author	11/9/21 4:00 p.m.	11/16/21 11:32 a.m.	

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 200-36 (LS)

As substituted on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje
Sabina Flores Perez
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Clynton E. Ridgell
Telena Cruz Nelson
Amanda L. Shelton
Joe S. San Agustin
Joanne Brown
Telo T. Taitague
Mary Camacho Torres
V. Anthony Ada
Frank Blas Jr.
Christopher M. Dueñas
James C. Moylan

Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan for the passage of H.R. 3368, the "Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief Act," introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on May 20, 2021, because it seeks to correct injustice, clarify the eligibility of affected veterans, and expedite the processing of veteran claims of health conditions caused by Agent Orange exposure in Guam, and advocating for an amendment to H.R. 3368 that reflects the correct dates of Agent Orange use in Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN

2 **GUÅHAN**:

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- WHEREAS, the people of Guam have a long history of distinguished service in
- 4 the U.S. Armed Forces, and an even longer history of strong support for all of the many

1 veterans of American wars, ranking among the highest enlistment levels in the U.S.,

2 and having suffered more casualties on a per capita basis than any other territory, state,

or insular area of the United States in both the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War;

4 and

WHEREAS, the resources and location of the island of Guam, and the service of the people of Guam played a critical role in U.S. military strategy during the Korean War, Vietnam War, and World War II; and

WHEREAS, it has been confirmed by the Agent Orange Act of 1991, Public Law 102-4, that there exists a correlation between certain herbicide agents containing dioxin or 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, such as Agent Orange, and diseases later contracted by veterans of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the Agent Orange Act of 1991 defines the scope of eligibility for compensation, to include all of those who were in active military, naval, or air service in the Republic of Vietnam during the use of the herbicide Agent Orange, and a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to a herbicide agent, unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that service. See 38 U.S.C. §§ 1116(a) and (f); and

WHEREAS, veterans that did not serve in Vietnam were not entitled to a presumption of service connection for diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents; however, a veteran may be entitled to service connection for this disease on a direct basis if the evidence establishes that the veteran's disease is related to the herbicide exposure; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) procedures resulted in withholding of benefits for Blue Water veterans who served at sea, off the coast of

1 Vietnam, and airmen who served in the skies above the Republic of Vietnam, and

civilian workers in staging areas for the Vietnam War, such as Guam, through which

military personnel, equipment, munitions and supplies, including herbicides containing

4 Agent Orange, were shipped; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington sided with Blue Water Navy veteran, Alfred Procopio, Jr. in an appeal filed against Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and reversed "a decision of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims denying service connection for prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus, as a result of exposure to an herbicide agent, Agent Orange, during his Vietnam War-era service in the United States Navy." *Procopio v. Wilkie*, 913 F.3d 1371, 1373 (Fed. Cir. 2019) (en banc). Accordingly, thousands of Vietnam War veterans who were stationed offshore during the war and developed health problems linked to exposure to the toxic herbicide Agent Orange now are eligible for the same disability benefits as those who put boots on the ground or patrolled Vietnam's inland rivers. The 9-to-2 decision reversed a decade-old ruling by the court and applies to an estimated fifty-two thousand (52,000) veterans nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense continues to deny Agent Orange was ever used outside of Vietnam and Thailand during the Vietnam War, despite the veterans coming forth with claims of exposure outside of these areas, including Guam; and, many of the Guam-based veterans point to studies about Vietnam's Agent Orange contamination and say they show that the herbicides sprayed forty (40) years ago still remain in Guam's soil, water table, and food chain—just as it does in Vietnam. These veterans blame the herbicide's after effects for the diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents, including miscarriages and birth defects among military dependents, as well as the civilian population on Guam; and

WHEREAS, if veterans' diseases or exposure locations fall outside of the current VA list, the veterans must show an actual connection between the disease and herbicide exposure during military service. There is no presumption in such cases, and many claims are denied; and

WHEREAS, in the August 9, 2007 issue of the Marianas Variety, it was reported that "At least two (2) successful applications for benefit claims filed by veterans deployed to Guam constituted the VA's virtual acknowledgement of the use of defoliants on island. In March of 2007, the VA approved the benefits claim filed by Robert L. Burgett, a Vietnam War veteran who developed cancer of the larynx, eventually causing his speech disability, as a result of his direct exposure to Agent Orange when he was stationed at AAFB between 1968 and 1969. He received a full grant of benefits"; and

WHEREAS, the Marianas Variety report went on to state that "In 2005, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans ruled in favor of an unidentified airman who was determined to have developed diabetes mellitus as a result of his exposure to defoliants while he was deployed on duty at AAFB from December 1966 to October 1968"; and

WHEREAS, in sworn testimony submitted in support of Ralph Stanton, MSgt. LeRoy Glenn Foster specifies the extent of the spraying both on and off of Andersen Air Force Base: "My name is MSgt. LeRoy Glenn Foster, USAF, Retired. I am writing this letter to testify in support of Ralph A. Stanton's exposure to Agent Orange herbicides which I prepared, mixed and sprayed on Andersen AFB, Guam and all of the off base fuels facilities, cross country pipelines that spanned the island to the Naval Fuel Supply Depot underground storage tanks. I sprayed these herbicides in, on, and around all the places Sgt. Stanton had to work. I prepared, mixed and sprayed these herbicides to include Agent Orange and Agent Blue herbicides which were packaged in 55 gallon drum containers identified with colored bands and 50 lb. dry chemical bags with

Monsanto on the bags. I was an A IC and a Sgt during the time frame of 1969 and 1970 and 1971. I worked in the 43"1 Supply Squadron Fuels Division and was assigned to on and off base fuels facility operations. I used a five ton blue tractor truck and a yellow 750 gallon tank trailer which was an old MK1 oil and Adi trailer to service C124 Globemaster Aircraft which was converted into a herbicide spraying trailer. I often would have to spray the entire pipe lines, hydrant pump stations on the flight line, the Quonset huts storing the packaged oil for the B52 bombers, the fuel valve pits, the security fences surrounding the flight line, the fuel storage facilities at Andy I, Andy II, the Liquid Oxygen building, the Fuel operations office, the truck refueling hardstands, the refueling fleet checkout area, all of the off base fuel storage facilities at Potts tank farm, Naval Air Station Fuel Booster pump station, Tumon Tank Farm and the entire Cross country pipeline. I also sprayed at the Yigo and Dededo Packaged Oil warehouse Quonset but where I operated forklifts to load and unload packaged oil for the B52 bombers jet engine oil."; and WHEREAS, on February 1, 2017, Florida Representative Dennis Ross introduced H.R. 809, the "Fighting for Orange-Stricken Territories in Eastern Regions Act" (FOSTER Act), named after MSgt. Foster, who suffered and died on October 23, 2018 from associated diseases and multiple cancers due to his exposure to Agent Orange in Guam. The FOSTER Act would have provided presumptive Agent Orange exposure status to Vietnam War-era veterans who served in specific areas, including Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, and show symptoms of medical conditions currently associated with exposure to Agent Orange so they can receive U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits; but, despite great effort, H.R. 809 was not moved forward in the 115th United States Congress; and WHEREAS, the late Lonnie Kilpatrick, a Navy veteran who was stationed on Guam in 1971 and 1972, working in electronic warfare during the Vietnam War,

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recalled living near a jungle area on Guam that was sprayed at night and had turned 1 2 dead brown by the next morning. Kilpatrick, who had never been stationed in Vietnam, 3 would later suffer from heart disease, kidney cancer, and skin conditions that he believed were connected to herbicide exposure while stationed on Guam. The VA 4 5 denied Kilpatrick's 2010 and 2018 Agent Orange service connection claims until a reversal on April 17, 2018 that granted service connection by the VA for "status post 6 7 heart transplant, residual of ischemi cardiomyopathy and myocardial infarction (also claimed as ischemic heart disease) associated with herbicide exposure." According to 8 the VA, since the initial claim denial, it had received additional service records 9 confirming Kilpatrick was exposed to Agent Orange while serving on Guam. After 10 11 several years of struggling with the VA for service connection benefits and an initial 12 VA misdiagnosis of his medical condition, Kilpatrick was granted service-connected 13 compensation, one (1) month before his death on May 5, 2018; and 14 WHEREAS, on March 13, 2019, in continued pursuit of VA recognition and in honor of Navy veteran Lonnie Kilpatrick, H.R. 1713, the "Lonnie Kilpatrick Central 15 Pacific Relief Act," was introduced into the 116th House of Representatives by Guam 16 Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas; and 17 18 WHEREAS, on May 20, 2021, the "Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief Act," was re-introduced in the 117th House of Representatives by Guam Delegate 19 Michael F.O. San Nicolas as H.R. 3368. The Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief 20 21 Act seeks to establish presumptive coverage for veterans who during active military, 22 naval, or air service, served on Guam, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana 23 Islands, or within the harbors and territorial seas of those islands during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on July 31, 1980, or who served on Johnston 24 25 Atoll during the period beginning on January 1, 1972, and ending on September 30,

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1977; and

WHEREAS, diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange include: chloracne or other acneform diseases consistent with chloracne; Type 2 diabetes (also known as Type II diabetes mellitus or adult-onset diabetes); Hodgkin's disease; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy; porphyria cutanea tarda; prostate cancer; respiratory cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea); and soft-tissue sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma) *See* 38 C.F.R. § 3.309(e); *see also* 38 U.S.C. § 1116(a)(2); and

WHEREAS, the passage of H.R. 3368, the "Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief Act," will correct injustice, clarify eligibility, and expedite the processing of claims of health conditions caused by Agent Orange exposure in areas in which direct exposure was proven to have taken place, such as Guam; and

WHEREAS, since H.R. 3368's publication, new information has been uncovered relating to the actual dates of Agent Orange use in Guam. A document published by the United States Navy's Materials Testing and Evaluation Division on August 15, 1958 was recently discovered in the University of Guam's archives. This document is titled "Guam Soils Conservation Services No. 3: Herbicides" and confirms the use of certain herbicide agents containing dioxin or 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, such as Agent Orange, in Guam to have taken place as early as August 15, 1958. With this new information, the Guam Legislature suggests that all dates in H.R. 3368 stating the use of Agent Orange in Guam to have begun on "January 9, 1962" be changed to "August 15, 1958" to ensure that no veterans who were affected by Agent Orange use in Guam are excluded; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express its strong support for resolving the numerous health care needs of the many veterans of American military service who served in

1 Guam and the health care needs of United States citizens residing in Guam; and be it

2 further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request that the Congress of the United States correct injustice and amend 38 U.S.C. § 1116 to include Vietnam War staging areas, such as Guam, for which evidence exists that Agent Orange exposure has taken place; and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express its support for H.R. 3368, the *Lonnie Kilpatrick Central Pacific Relief Act*, introduced by Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on May 20, 2021, because it seeks to correct injustice, clarify the eligibility of affected veterans, and expedite the processing of veteran claims of health conditions caused by Agent Orange exposure in Guam, and advocate for an amendment to H.R. 3368 that reflects the correct dates of Agent Orange use in Guam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, urgently petition the United States Congress to provide presumptive Agent Orange exposure status to Vietnam War-era veterans who served in specific areas, including Guam, and show symptoms of medical conditions currently associated with such exposure, so they can justly and expeditiously receive U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to address those medical conditions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the

- 1 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable
- 2 Mark Takano, California Representative and Chairman of the Committee on Veterans'
- 3 Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas,
- 4 Guam Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Elaine Luria,
- 5 Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, U.S.
- 6 House of Representatives; to the Guam Veterans Affairs Office; and to the Honorable
- 7 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga'hågan Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÂHAN* ON THE 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2021.

THERESE M. TEREAJE

Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON

Legislative Secretary