

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 243-30 (LS)

Introduced by:

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Relative to expressing sincere condolences to the family of the late Roel Santiago, and to posthumously commending him for his contributions to the people of Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

1 **WHEREAS**, photography goes beyond taking pictures, it’s an art that
2 captures a moment in time; and

3 **WHEREAS**, this profession can bolster appreciation for families,
4 government officials, and the environment; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Guam lost one of its preeminent photographers, Roel
6 Santiago, on November 3, 2009; and

7 **WHEREAS**, his passion for photography began at the early age of
8 sixteen (16), training under Tony Lamorena and Tom Quinata at the Insular
9 Arts Gallery; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Roel continued to learn from the best in the industry
11 during his high school years, including Franklin Perez, Herman Crisostomo,
12 Carlos Barretto, and Roy Gutierrez; and

13 **WHEREAS**, shortly after graduating from high school, Roel moved to
14 California and continued to develop his passion by working at large
15 commercial production companies, assisting with car, food, and architectural
16 shoots; and

17 **WHEREAS**, during his time in the states, Roel earned internships at
18 prestigious media companies, such as CNN and Prime Ticket; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Roel also served his country in the U.S. Army for a total of
20 eleven (11) years, including a stint as a combat photographer during
21 Operation Dessert Storm; and

1 **WHEREAS**, he returned to Guam in 1992, and immediately served the
2 community with his expertise at several photo studios and at the Pacific Daily
3 News; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 1993, with his then-wife Cecelia, Roel formed
5 PhotoWorks, and solidified his place as one of Guam’s premier portrait and
6 commercial photographers; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Roel decided to break into the school portrait market in
8 1997, and quickly grew his client base from a few pilot schools to numerous
9 campuses around the island, both private and public; and

10 **WHEREAS**, he quickly became known for producing the best
11 commercial shoots, working with top local companies, including Continental
12 Micronesia, iConnect, and DFS; and

13 **WHEREAS**, eventually, Roel joined forces with Burt Sardoma,
14 Herman Ada, Dave Taitano, and Jamie Daugherty to form VideoWorks, the
15 first studio on Guam to begin producing digital slide shows; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2003, Roel was appointed as Governor Felix P.
17 Camacho's official photographer, a position he held from 2003 to 2008; and

18 **WHEREAS**, while at Adelup, Roel was tasked to photograph major
19 political figures, including former Philippine Presidents Corazon Aquino and
20 Fidel Ramos; then-U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne; then-Vice
21 President Dick Cheney; then-acting Secretary of the Navy B.J. Penn; and
22 current Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2008, Roel went back to freelance photography, focusing
2 on his favorite aspect of his profession, food photography; and

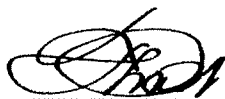
3 **WHEREAS**, Roel has shot for every major business and agency on the
4 island; and

5 **WHEREAS**, he is also responsible for forming the Guam Professional
6 Photographers Association as a way to mentor young photographers and
7 foster fellowship with established members of the community; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
10 behalf of the people of Guam, express sincere condolences to the family of the
11 late Roel Santiago, and does posthumously commend him for his
12 contributions to the people of Guam; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
14 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be transmitted to the
15 family of the late Roel Santiago, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
16 *Maga'lahaen Guahan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary