




*I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

2010 DEC 13 AM 8:46 

Resolution No. *490-30 (COR)*

Introduced by:

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D. 

JP Guthertz, DPA 

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Relative to commending and congratulating Mrs. Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson for her induction into the Guam Educators' Hall of Fame, Phi Delta Kappa, Guam Chapter, 1302; and to recognize her contributions and life long dedication towards the education of the island's youth.

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

2            **WHEREAS**, Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson, a native daughter of Guam, and current  
3 Yigo resident, has dedicated her life illuminating not only her lasting contributions to the  
4 Guam Public School System and social reform, but also the issues surrounding the senior  
5 citizens of Guam and their quest for enhanced government services and respect as a  
6 traditionally disenfranchised group; and

7            **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Nelson is the daughter of Luis Quitugua Borja and Maria Desa  
8 Camacho and is the wife of former Senator Theodore "Ted" S. Nelson and the mother of four  
9 children Gwen, Ted Jr., Glenn, and Rhonda; and

10           **WHEREAS**, in 1955, Mrs. Nelson became a graduate from George Washington High  
11 School and shortly thereafter in 1957 she was the recipient of a Territorial College of Guam

1 Scholarship and went on to pursue an Associates of Arts degree at the Territorial College of  
2 Guam; and

3         **WHEREAS**, she received her Bachelor's of Science degree in 1959 from Ohio State  
4 University where she was a scholarship recipient and continued her pursuit to complete  
5 post-graduate studies to include a Master's of Science degree at the University of New  
6 Mexico and she also took courses in Educational Law and Statistics at the University of  
7 Oregon, and Reading courses at the University of California, Los Angeles; and

8         **WHEREAS**, growing up, Mrs. Nelson's parents were strict, and repeatedly  
9 emphasized taking responsibility for one's actions, hard work, and encouraged their children  
10 to be actively involved in the Church to continue to enrich them in the Catholic faith;  
11 education was highly valued in her household and her parents often sacrificed what they  
12 had to provide each child the opportunity to advance; and

13         **WHEREAS**, for more than thirty years, Mrs. Nelson's mission to improve children's  
14 education began immediately as a newly hired substitute teacher in an elementary school in  
15 the Guam Public School System; her committed efforts led to increasing responsibilities of  
16 upward mobility within the system as a certified teacher, consultant, principal, deputy  
17 director, director and subsequently appointed then elected board member; and

18         **WHEREAS**, her insights into the minds of children and the possibilities of providing  
19 them with the necessary tools to develop and reach their potential manifested in her

1 relentless drive to develop and implement diverse and original programs to enhance each  
2 child's development in the classroom, making her an educational pioneer on Guam; in  
3 addition, Mrs. Nelson's been known to take initiative to secure resources for public schools  
4 and enhance teachers' professional stature and was instrumental in lobbying for equitable  
5 pay and benefits for local teachers; and

6         **WHEREAS**, she challenged autocracy in bureaucratic offices and school buildings  
7 alike, arguing school reform and urging teachers and parents for action; she believed in  
8 community involvement to assist in education reform and worked closely with village  
9 commissioners and parents to motivate and assist the youth; and

10         **WHEREAS**, her vision of the democratic role of the public school and the  
11 responsibility of teachers as forward thinking citizens is inspirational for educators today;  
12 this idea was later translated when she was instrumental in putting a stop to the removal of  
13 pregnant teachers from working, which at that time was a milestone in women's rights; she  
14 also advocated for limited term substitute teachers to gain certification, extending this  
15 further by providing opportunities for school aides to attend college to gain certification; and

16         **WHEREAS**, her belief that public schools can offer quality education comparable to  
17 that offered in a private school has never wavered; during her years as director and then  
18 board member, she led a team of deeply dedicated teachers and administrators to prove that  
19 caring instructors, an atmosphere of disciplined creativity, and a refusal to accept mediocrity,

1 can transform the lives of all children; this tenet inspired her to provide, without pay,  
2 continuous staff development for school administrators, teachers, administrative central  
3 office staff, and superintendents; she also initiated island wide volunteers to include village  
4 commissioners as part of her "Happy Labor Campaign" to assist schools in maintaining a  
5 clean environment; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Nelson's unique brand of discipline provided other outlets for  
7 children to be disciplined within the school setting. Rather than suspending or referring  
8 problem youth to other governmental agencies, students were given assignments and were  
9 supervised; these "Opportunity Classrooms" were created to assist students who faced  
10 challenges in their academics; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Nelson is a remarkable example of a social reformer and leading  
12 advocate in the fight for equity for Guam's disenfranchised senior citizens; she is a dynamic  
13 leader, civic advocate and school reformer. Her staunch beliefs continue to be her model of  
14 success born of dedication, passion, and hard work; she articulates an educated, feminist  
15 perspective of strong leadership that is truly honorable and has helped her to succeed in a  
16 variety of endeavors; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the  
18 people of Guam commend and congratulate Mrs. Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson on the  
19 occasion of her induction into the Guam Educator's Hall of Fame, Phi Delta Kappa, Guam  
20 Chapter, 1032; and lifelong dedication to the education of the islands' youth; be it further

1           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption  
2 hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Josephine Ann Mendiola; to  
3 Phi Delta Kappa, Guam Chapter, 1302, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'låhen*  
4 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN  
GUÅHAN ON THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2010.**

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**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D**  
Speaker

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**RORY J. RESPICIO**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Legislative Secretary