

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 345 -31 (COR)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio

2012-03-17
RJR
71-3-52

RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO GUAM AND OUR PEOPLE BY DRS. ROBERT AND RUBY STAHLNECKER; TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR HUMANITARIAN ACTS FOR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS, NATIONS AND PEOPLE OVER THE PAST 43 YEARS, AND EXPRESSING THE BEST WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I
2 MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Robert Eugene Stahlnecker grew up in Beloit,
4 Wisconsin, attending high school at Bethel Academy, and played
5 saxophone in his school band; future spouse Ruby Kahler was raised in
6 College Place, Washington, working as a teenage office nurse for her
7 doctor father, gaining much valuable medical knowledge under his
8 tutelage; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Stahlnecker was sent to China during World War II,
10 to work behind enemy lines with Chinese guerillas and the U.S. Navy,
11 and following the war, attended Walla Walla University (WWU) in
12 Washington State, where he met his future bride, Ruby, who took nursing
13 courses at Loma Linda University, but before completing the last year of
14 the program they were married and moved to New Mexico, where they
15 taught school, Dr. Stahlnecker also serving as a Pastor; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1953 they traveled to India, working at several
17 schools where Dr. Stahlnecker was Principal, while Ruby taught classes,
18 helped with school administration, served as a nurse, and helped deliver
19 babies when needed, and Dr. Stahlnecker would start a school band,

1 teaching his students to play various instruments, while Ruby taught
2 piano lessons; and

3 **WHEREAS**, they returned to New Mexico in 1958, and Dr.
4 Stahlnecker resumed his education while working as a Pastor; after
5 receiving his Masters, they returned to India in 1960, Dr. Stahlnecker once
6 again a principal, and Ruby working as an administrator, teacher and
7 nurse, all while raising five children and delivering babies, but returned
8 home after a year, due to the illness of one of their children; and

9 **WHEREAS**, settling in Eugene, Oregon, Ruby taught 5th and 6th
10 grades while Dr. Stahlnecker worked on and received his doctorate; the
11 family then returned to WWU where Dr. Stahlnecker taught Education,
12 and Ruby received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees while working
13 full time as a Special Education teacher and mother to their five children;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Stahlnecker's learned about Guam from Elizabeth
16 and Edna Flores, who were also students at WWU, and decided they
17 would move to Guam in 1969 with three of their children, Stahlnecker
18 teaching at the University of Guam from 1969-1973 as a member of the
19 Education Department, while Ruby developed and ran the Curriculum
20 Resource Center, and also taught in the Education Department, from 1969
21 to 1977; and

22 **WHEREAS**, When the Vietnam war ended in 1975, Ruby (through
23 the Adventist Community Center) coordinated volunteers to help with
24 refugee efforts. The Red Cross placed the Adventists to assist and be in
25 charge of distributing the clothes provided by the Red Cross, and offered
26 conversational English classes for refugees, among other activities; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in May 1976, Super Typhoon Pamela devastated Guam,
28 leaving communications with off-island non-existent, so then-Governor

1 Ricky Bordallo, had Dr. Stahlnecker's son Leslie, who worked with Civil
2 Defense, ask his father to use his ham radio to ask the Adventist Disaster
3 and Relief Association (ADRA) for assistance; Dr. Stahlnecker's radio
4 message was the first post-typhoon message to get through; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the radio message resulted in the ADRA shipping 17-
6 1/2 tons of assistance and emergency supplies by plane to Guam, and
7 Guam's Adventist Community Service helped with the distribution of
8 clothing, provided warehouse space, and unloaded and delivered
9 supplies; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Stahlnecker has remained active over the years with
11 the Ham Radio Club, just as Ruby has remained a faithful supporter of
12 the Adventist Community Service, and the Stahlneckers were very active
13 with the Guam Adventist Academy (GAA), teaching Bible classes and
14 band, giving music lessons to students, assisting High School students
15 through community outreach, working on the school's curriculum
16 organization and serving as GAA Board Members for many years; and

17 **WHEREAS**, after eight years in Guam, the Stahlneckers moved to
18 Sri Lanka to run Lahpahana Adventist Seminary, then returned to
19 California due to Ruby's ill health, Robert pastoring and building a new
20 church in Southern California, while Ruby completed her PhD in
21 Education from nearby La Sierra University; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Stahlneckers returned to Guam in 1986, Ruby
23 working at Upi Elementary School, teaching at UOG for five years, and
24 then both Stahlneckers teaching in Yap, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands
25 for UOG's Center for Continuing Education and Outreach Programs,
26 "Grandma" Ruby eventually retiring from the Government of Guam in
27 1991; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Stahlnecker administered the UOG extension
2 program in Saipan from 1990-1993, taught classes and supervised student
3 teachers, with Ruby joining him from 1991-1993 to research and teach for
4 the Northern Marianas College, enabling NMC to receive an important
5 grant; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Stahlneckers returned to Guam in 1993, landing
7 several hours after the 8.2 Earthquake; traveled to China in 1995 to teach
8 Conversational English; returned to Guam for Robert to continue his work
9 as a Lay Pastor, and pushed for and coordinated NET Bible Outreach
10 meetings for four years beginning with NET 96, while Ruby worked for the
11 Governor's Commission for Educator Certification; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Ruby has remained active by making sure Sabbath Bible
13 School lessons, magazines and materials are ordered and received into
14 the hands and hearts of the members of the *Man Aguaiya* Fellowship
15 Company of Seventh-day Adventists alongside "Pastor Bob," the
16 volunteer Lay Pastor who provides spiritual leadership by example
17 through the love and gentleness of Christ, and has been faithful in visiting
18 many homebound and bed-ridden members who have been
19 tremendously blessed and appreciative of this blessed from above
20 ministry, now, therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules, on behalf of *I Mina'trentai Unu*
22 *Na Liheslaturan Guahan* and the people of Guam, does hereby recognize the
23 contributions made to Guam and our people by Drs. Robert and Ruby
24 Stahlnecker; and does also acknowledge their humanitarian acts for other Pacific
25 islands, nations and people over the past 43 years, and expresses the best wishes
26 of the people of Guam on the occasion of their retirement; and be it further

27 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Committee on
28 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attests to the adoption hereof, and

- 1 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Drs. Robert and Ruby
2 Stahlnecker; and to *I Maga'Lahen Guãhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THIS 9th DAY OF MARCH, 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary