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<td>515-32 (LS)</td>
<td>T.R. Muña Barnes B.J. F. Cruz</td>
<td>Relative to Recognizing and Commending the Late Geronimo (Romy)Fejeran Laguaña and Herta Klement Laguaña as Guam’s first Chamorro Licensed Bed and Breakfast Proprietors in the U.S. Territory of Guam</td>
<td>12/16/14</td>
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Relative to recognizing and commending the late Geronimo (Romy) Fejeran Laguaina and Herta Klement Laguaina as Guam’s first Chamorro licensed bed and breakfast proprietors in Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA’TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, in 2014, 1.3 million visitors visited Guam, a U.S. territory whose land area is 214 square miles (549 square kilometers), and located 13.28 degrees north, and longitude 144.47 east. Guam is the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands in the Micronesian region of the western Pacific, and many visitors come to experience the island’s 4,000 year old rich culture, history, heritage, peoples, natural and pristine environment; and
WHEREAS, the travel industry on Guam started in 1952; and today it is the number one industry of Guam, and the lifeblood of Guam’s economy. The success of the tourism industry hinges on the hard work and commitment of the travel industry professionals who work every day to provide the best service and travel experience possible to our visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, Guam offers visitors various types of lodging accommodations, such as hotels, motels, condominiums, and apartments, as well as Bed and Breakfast (B & B) homestays with local families; and

WHEREAS, authentic B & B homestay facilities around the world have become a popular option for people traveling, mostly because of the excellent and personalized attention provided to travelers; and the benefit of staying in a B & B homestay facility is that it offers a different and rewarding experience. On Guam, B & B homestays also tend to have their own colorful and unique character indicative of the destination’s brand of local culture and the character of its people. Even better, B & B owners often have many tips concerning the best things to see and do on the island from a local perspective; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Garden Villa B & B homestay is the island’s very first Chamorro bed and breakfast homestay facility. It is licensed by the government of Guam to conduct business and has operated consistently for the past twenty-nine (29) years, sharing the warm and friendly Chamorro island hospitality in a comfortable atmosphere to over one thousand (1,000) guests from countries throughout the world, to include Australia, Africa, Austria, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Israel, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, England, Finland, Fiji, Japan, Korea, Solomon Islands, Saipan, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, New Caledonia, Norway, Malaysia, Mexico, Micronesia, Philippines, Singapore, Scotland, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United States mainland, and New Zealand. Each visitor of
the Guam Garden Villa B & B homestay is greeted as a personal friend and special
house guest. The late Romy Laguña and Mrs. Herta Klement Laguña, and their
family, have enjoyed sharing what they know about their homeland and culture with
their guests; and

WHEREAS, since 1985, Herta and the late Romy Laguña have been active
members of good standing with the Guam Visitors Bureau, and have worked hard to
provide the best possible Chamorro island hospitality to each of their B & B Home
stay house guests. The Laguña family have incorporated the “Hafa Adai” spirit into
their business since they opened their home to the world, which has accounted for
many repeat visitors to their facility. Topping the list as the highest frequented
returning guest is Ms. Natzuko Mitsutani from Shinagawa, Japan, who just arrived
this week, making it her thirty-third (33rd) visit to Guam; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, the late Geronimo (Romy) Fejeran Laguña married
Herta Klement, a German fraulein. Romy, a heroic and decorated Vietnam War
Veteran proudly served for twenty-one (21) years; retired from the U.S. Army, and
settled his family back on Guam in 1971. Sadly, Romy died on Guam on January 25,
1990; and

WHEREAS, Herta Klement Laguña, from New-Ulm, Germany, first came to
Guam as a wife of Chamorro Army soldier †Romy Laguana in 1960; and she has
lived continuously on our island since 1972 when †Romy retired from the military;
and

WHEREAS, †Romy and Herta were blessed with five (5) children: María
Laguña Perez of Sinajana; Pilar Laguña of Tamuning; Herta Laguña Dela Cruz of
Maite; Romy Laguña of Ordot; and David Laguña of Sinajana; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Garden Villa B & B homestay facility is located at 193
Ramirez Drive in the central village of Ordot; and the affordable room rental price of
Guam Garden Villa B & B homestay has attracted over one thousand (1,000) unique tourists to Guam, who would not have opted for a hotel, but rather sought home stay accommodations that gave them a true Chamorro lifestyle experience, and the creation of unique friendships. These types of visitors include extended and repeated stay tourists, students, educators, business travelers, military veterans, adventure seekers, and world travelers seeking enriched and meaningful travel experiences; and

WHEREAS, since the opening of the Guam Garden Villa B &B homestay by the Laguáña family, several other bed & breakfast home stays have been inspired to do the same, adding various accommodation options to visiting tourists today; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Lihe-slaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the late Geronimo (Romy) Fejeran and Herta Klement Laguáña and family for opening Guam’s first Chamorro bed and breakfast homestay in Guam; and for contributing rich and unique travel experiences by sharing the “Hafa Adai” spirit with our international visitors; 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 Herta Klement Laguáña; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, I Maga'lahen Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHE-SLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2014.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D. Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES Legislative Secretary