

**I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
2-35 (COR)	William M. Castro Jose T. Terlaje	Relative to posthumously commemorating the distinguished accomplishments, contributions, and dedication of the late Honorable Vicente Diaz Gumataotao, former Mayor of Piti, who was a true servant and leader of his island and nation; and to further extending sincere condolences from the people of Guam and <i>I Liheslaturan Guåhan</i> to the Gumataotao family on his passing.	1/8/19 10:20 a.m.	1/12/19 10:00 a.m.						

I MINA' TRENTAI SINGKO' NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 2-35 (COR)

Introduced by:

William M. Castro
Jose T. Terlaje

Relative to posthumously commemorating the distinguished accomplishments, contributions, and dedication of the late Honorable Vicente Diaz Gumataotao, former Mayor of Piti, who was a true servant and leader of his island and nation; and to further extending sincere condolences from the people of Guam and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to the Gumataotao family on his passing.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, former Mayor Vicente Diaz Gumataotao, fondly known as
4 “*Uncle Ben,*” was born on November 30, 1927, in the historic pre-war village of
5 *Sumay*; and, he is the son of the late Josefina Diaz and Leon Diaz Gumataotao. He
6 is the third eldest child of twelve (12) children and the first-born son; and

7 **WHEREAS**, at the advent of World War II, former Mayor Vicente Diaz
8 Gumataotao’s family was made to march to the *Manenggon* Hills concentration
9 camp during the Imperial Japanese Army’s invasion of Guam; and, as a teenager,
10 he was exposed to the atrocities of the brutal and gruesome war at the hands of the
11 Japanese soldiers; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Vicente Diaz Gumataotao’s family was later relocated
13 to the hills of *Santa Rita* where his family rebuilt their lives; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Vicente Diaz Gumataotao later married the former
15 Antonia Benavente Rabon of *Sinajana*, and they raised three (3) dynamic and
16 strong women, Elizabeth ‘Betsy’ G. Hussey, Lisa G. Perkins, and Yvette Marie R.
17 Leon Guerrero Cruz; and seven (7) professional men, Anthony Freddie Sablan,
18 Gary Frank Gumataotao, Glen Gumataotao, Robert G.R. Leon Guerrero, Kevin

2019 JAN -8 AM 10:20 PC

1 A.R. Leon Guerrero, Manuel F. Leon Guerrero III, and Vicente D. Gumataotao II.
2 Uncle Ben has also been blessed with twenty-five (25) grandchildren; Anthony
3 Scott, Kevin Michael, Andrea Nicole, Dominique, Janelle, Angelica, Joshua
4 Aaron, Hanna, Aya, Amy Lisa, Vicente Jeremiah, Stacy Nicole, Ashley Blair,
5 Matthew John, Tyler, Gabriel Jesus, Elijah James, Patricia Rose, Manuel IV,
6 Lucian Jacob, Antonía Maria, Vicente III, and Mieko Rosae; and twenty-two (22)
7 great-grandchildren, Alicia Hallie, Jade Kiana, Addie, Anthony, Kiana Susan,
8 Kaiden Rooney, Kaitlin, Hailey, Valerie, Melanie, Carson, Colton, Cadence,
9 Yohann, Adelynn, Carson, William, Noah, Vivian, Isaiah, Nevaeh, and TJ; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Vicente Diaz Gumataotao served a grateful nation for
11 over twenty-eight (28) years as a decorated sailor in the United States Navy.
12 During his tour in the Navy, he completed Mess Management School and was an
13 instructor for stewards within his division, as well as stewards that were to be
14 assigned to the White House; and, he subsequently retired at the rank of Master
15 Chief Petty Officer (E-9), the highest enlisted rank in the United States Navy; and

16 **WHEREAS**, upon his retirement, Mayor Vicente Diaz Gumataotao worked
17 with former Speaker Thomas C. Tanaka as a Legislative Consultant for the Guam
18 Legislature from January 1979 to December 1983. He then worked with former
19 Senator Edward Dueñas from 1984 to 1988, and eventually took a position in the
20 office of former Congressman Vicente C. Blaz in the 101st and 102nd U.S.
21 Congress, from January 1989 to December 1993, serving as a trusted advisor; and

22 **WHEREAS**, after ten (10) years of retirement, Uncle Ben Gumataotao was
23 called upon by the community of *Piti* to run for Mayor; and, he served as the
24 village Mayor for twelve (12) years, from January 2004 to December 2015; and

25 **WHEREAS**, during his time serving as Mayor of *Piti*, Mayor Vicente Diaz
26 Gumataotao improved his village through the restoration of the *Piti* basketball
27 court, the renovation the Pedro Santos Park, the clean-up Marine Corps Drive, and
28 the development of the *Masso* Reservoir for the village of *Piti*; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Ben is an active member of numerous civic and
30 religious organizations, to include: the U.S. Navy League (Lifetime Member); the
31 Young Men's League of Guam; the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch #73; the
32 National Association of Uniform Services (Lifetime Member); the Guam Diabetes
33 Association; the Legion of Mary (Auxiliary Member) of *Piti* Church; the Finance
34 Council of *Piti* Church; Past Member, *Piti* Municipal Planning Council; Past

1 Member, Guam Public Utilities Commission; and Past Member, Guam Land Use
2 Commission; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Mayor Ben lived to the age of ninety-one (91) years, a full,
4 vibrant and accomplished life; and his family, friends, the community he served,
5 and the people of Guam will surely miss him; now therefore, be it

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Singko' Na*
7 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
8 people of Guam, recognize, honor, and bid farewell to the Honorable Vicente
9 "Uncle Ben" Diaz Gumataotao, former Mayor of *Piti*, and does further express *Un*
10 *Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to him for his lifetime of contributions to the people
11 of Guam; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
13 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that
14 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to his Mrs. Antonia B.R. Gumataotao,
15 wife the late Honorable Vicente Diaz Gumataotao, and to their ten (10) children; to
16 the Honorable Jesse Alig, Mayor of *Piti*; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon
17 Guerrero, *I Maga'håga Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE
___ DAY OF JANUARY 2019.**

TINA ROSE MUNA-BARNES
Speaker

REGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary