

**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
340-35 (LS)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Amanda L. Shelton Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to posthumously recognizing Kwang-ming Chen M.D. for his nearly forty (40) years of medical service to the people of Guam, and to further extend our sincere condolences to his family on behalf of a grateful community.	7/8/20 11:14 a.m.	TBA						

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2020 (SECOND) Regular Session

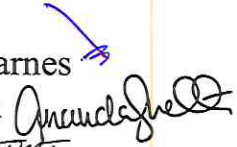
Resolution No. 340-35 (LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Amanda L. Shelton

Therese M. Terlaje



Relative to posthumously recognizing Kwang-ming Chen M.D. for his nearly forty (40) years of medical service to the people of Guam, and to further extend our sincere condolences to his family on behalf of a grateful community.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** Kwang-ming Chen M.D. was born in a small Taiwanese town on
4 July 26, 1930. Dr. Chen was inspired by the altruistic teachings of his father a priest of
5 a Presbyterian Church and his mother who was a midwife and was determined to serve
6 others by becoming a medical doctor. In 1956 Dr. Chen came one step closer to realizing
7 his dream when he received his medical degree from the prestigious National Taiwan
8 University College of Medicine. After receiving his medical degree Dr. Chen went on
9 to complete his residency in psychiatry in 1959 and his residency in neurology in 1961
10 at the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry at the National Taiwan University. He
11 then served as the department's Chief Resident for neurology and psychiatry from 1961-
12 1962. After completing his service as the department's Chief Resident Dr. Chen

1 became an instructor in psychiatry from 1962-1963 and a lecturer in neurology from
2 1963-1964 at the National Taiwan University; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Chen began his medical service in the island of Guam in 1964
4 when he served as a Research Scientist in Neurology at the Guam Research Center,
5 Epidemiology Branch, National Institute of Neurological Disease and Blindness,
6 National Institutes of Health. Dr. Chen would receive his Guam medical License and
7 began practicing medicine at Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) on August 25th, 1965.
8 However, after dedicating two years of medical service to our island community Dr.
9 Chen eventually went on to further his medical education at the renowned Mayo
10 Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota in 1967, and would later become
11 an associate professor at the National Taiwan University Hospital in 1970; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Against the objections from his colleagues and family Dr. Chen
13 decided to return to Guam in 1972 and forgo several opportunities that awaited a Doctor
14 of his pedigree. Upon his return, Dr. Chen continued his work to treat those afflicted
15 with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Parkinsonism-Dementia Complex
16 (PDC) in Guam or as they were more commonly known as Lytico and Bodig. Lytico
17 and Bodig are chronic neurodegenerative disorders that were highly prevalent in the
18 native Chamorro population of Guam for many decades. Lytico refers to progressive
19 paralysis that resembles ALS and Bodig which exhibits characteristics similar to PDC
20 and combines the tremor of Parkinson's disease with the memory loss of Alzheimer's
21 disease. During the early 1970s Lytico and Bodig were the most fatal diseases in Guam
22 with a mortality rate as high as thirty percent (30%); and

23 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Chen would dedicate nearly forty (40) years to the study and
24 treatment of Lytico and Bodig on Guam and would go on to make over twenty (20)
25 presentations through the world including Tokyo, Chicago, Manila, New York, Taiwan,
26 San Francisco, Washington DC, and Guam to help educate others about Lytico and

1 Bodig. In 1982 Dr. Chen furthered this education campaign through community
2 outreach with the establishment of the Lytico/Bodig Association; and

3 **WHEREAS**, After the disappearance of the Lytico and Bodig on Guam in 2005
4 Dr. Chen authored the book *The Mysterious Diseases of Guam* which discussed the
5 history, discovery, identification, and research on possible causes of Lytico and Bodig
6 on the island. He would go on to retire that same year and receive recognition from the
7 United States Congress and the Guam Legislature for “his superior medical practice and
8 lifetime contribution to Guam residents;” and

9 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Chen died in his sleep on June 19, 2020, and the age of eighty-
10 nine (89). He is survived by his wife Eiko, their three children, and their grandchildren;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, as one of the few doctors on island specializing in neurology, Dr.
13 Chen has seen thousands of patients on Guam throughout his career. Dr. Chen was an
14 important and influential member of Guam’s community and was beloved by his
15 patients, doctors, and the people of Guam. Dr. Chen will be sadly missed; and now
16 therefore be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na*
18 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
19 of Guam, posthumously recognize Kwang-ming Chen M.D. for his nearly forty (40)
20 years of medical service to the people of Guam, and to further extend our sincere
21 condolences to his family on behalf of a grateful community; and be it further;

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chair of the Committee on Rules certify,
23 and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same
24 be thereafter transmitted to; the family of the late Kwang-ming Chen, M.D. and to the
25 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MONTH 2020.

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary