Executive Committee
Resolution No. 148

Introduced by: J. T. Won Pat
J.M.S. Brown

Relative to honoring Lou Leon Guerrero for ten (10) years of dedicated service to the people of Guam as a Senator in the Guam Legislature and to thank her for the immense and unselfish contribution to the island and the People of Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA' BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:

WHEREAS, Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, affectionately known as “Senator Lou” was born on November 8, 1950 to Jesus Sablan (deceased) and Eugenia Aflague Leon Guerrero and is sister to Jesse and Tony (deceased); and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou is married to Attorney Jeff Cook and are both proud parents of Joaquin and Mariana; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou was a bonafide “Soccer Mom” when her children were young at which time she would often be seen on the soccer field doing the “wave” on many occasions, and is still a very supportive and
鼓励的母亲；

WHEREAS, Senator Lou has become an avid outrigger paddler and is a member of the Outrigger Guam Canoe Club, and can be seen on the weekends taking on the mighty Pacific blue; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in 1968 from the Academy of Lady of Guam, driven by her desire to help the sick, the elderly and the disadvantaged, Senator Lou went on to obtain her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from California State University of Los Angeles in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Sen. Lou completed a masters degree in Public Health from University of California State University of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou, wanting to gain professional experience as a nurse and nurse manager working in a hospital setting with critical care patients, obtained her California nursing certificate and began her decade long tenure as a registered nurse at St. John’s Hospital at Santa Monica, California as a critical care nurse; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou, hearing the call to return home to Guam in order to provide quality healthcare services to the sick, elderly and the disadvantaged people of our island returned with the vision and determination to improve healthcare services for the people of Guam; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou began to build a foundation of public service in the effort to promote quality healthcare services, thus began working as a
staff nurse educator at the Guam Memorial Hospital and then moving on to become the Assistant Director of Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou having gained public service experience, desired to transition into the private sector to further her skills in administration and management thus began her tenure at FHP, the first federally qualified health maintenance organization on Guam and worked in various capacities as Nurse Supervisor, Center Manager and Director of Operations and Quality Management; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou, recognizing the need for policy change affecting healthcare on Guam and the desire to return to public service in order to make significant contributions to our island, responded by presenting herself to the people as a candidate for the Guam Legislature and was successfully elected, beginning her legislative career in 1995 when elected into the 23rd Guam Legislature and was Chairwomen of the Committee on Health, Welfare & Senior Citizens in addition to being the Assistant Majority Leader; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou continued to earn the trust and confidence of the people and was reelected to serve in the 24th and 25th Guam Legislatures where she held the position of Assistant Minority Leader and a member of numerous committees; and

WHEREAS, desiring to make an even greater contribution to the island, she launched a bid to serve in the executive branch as a Lt. Governor
candidate with Senator Tom Ada and decided not to stand for election to the
26th Guam Legislature; and

WHEREAS, elected to the 27th Guam Legislature, Senator Lou served as
Chairwoman of the Committee on Rules & Health, viewed as one of the most
powerful committees in the Legislature, while also serving as Majority
Leader; and

WHEREAS, currently in the 28th Guam Legislature, she is a member of
the Committee on Health & Human Services, Committee on Natural
Resources, Utilities & Micronesian Affairs and the Committee on General &
Omnibus Matters; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou has been a staunch supporter for healthcare
for the people of Guam and is fervent in her work to improve the quality of
healthcare on the island so to better the lives of her constituency, she
introduced significant legislation to positively affect the lives of our People,
specifically the most vulnerable population in the community- the elderly, the
indigent and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou working together with community members,
stakeholders and organizational leaders introduced groundbreaking
legislation as a freshman senator that created the Department of Integrated
Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) to address fragmented
services that negatively impacted individuals with disabilities on our island;
and
WHEREAS, Senator Lou, as a professional nurse for many years encountered numerous individuals expressing their desire to meet death with dignity, and, having a kind and generous heart was affected by their cries for help, thus as a legislator sought to restore dignity in their death, she established the Natural Death Act which allows individuals a right to declare their wishes relating to their medical care; and

WHEREAS, through further legislation, continued her work to protect the dignity of the individual, she designated the University of Guam's Committee on human subjects as the Institutional Review Board for review and approval of all research conducted on Guam thereby assuring that research on human subjects were protected; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou holding steadfast to her commitment to improve the quality of healthcare for the people of Guam, ensuring the delivery of public health services, and taking a stand against political mediocrity through the appointment of ill-qualified agency heads, she legislatively mandated objective qualifications for the Directors of the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, the Department of Public Health & Social Services, Guam Memorial Hospital and the Guam Library; and

WHEREAS, ever mindful of the importance and power of advocacy, especially on behalf of individuals who cannot speak or defend themselves, she created the Guam Systems of Care Council which allows parents of
WHEREAS, Senator Lou established the Division of Emergency Medical Services within the Guam Memorial Hospital to streamline emergency services between the Fire Department and the Guam Memorial Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou, a nurse by profession has been a champion for nursing issues introducing numerous legislation and collaborated with the Commission on Nurse Leaders and the Civil Service Commission to ensure fair and equitable pay for Guam’s hardworking nurses which resulted in changes to the salary structure for nurses; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou introduced legislation to mandate coverage of health services by the insurance companies, such as hemophilia, parity for mental illness, setting minimum maternity-stay for mothers and infants and newborn hearing screening/intervention; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou created the Health Review Commission to specifically review and make recommendations with regard to providing affordable, quality health care to active and retired Government of Guam employees; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou introduced compelling legislation to raise the tobacco tax and alcohol tax on Guam where the monies were deposited into special funds called the Healthy Futures Fund and the Safe Home Safe Streets Fund, a direct funding source to support programs within numerous government agencies specifically geared toward the prevention and education
of the negative affects of tobacco and alcohol use on our island, especially for
our youth; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou knows of the devastating affects that tobacco
smoking can have on an individual and their families, as well as second hand
smoke and therefore acting on behalf of a brave 14-year old girl who suffers
from a rare cancer disease which affects her breathing in enclosed areas, she
introduced landmark legislation entitled the "Natasha Act" which bans
smoking in restaurants and bars; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou, a leader who fights for our people introduced
Resolution No. 72, "Relative to expressing the unity of the Guam Legislature and
the People of Guam relative to War Claims for all" and conducted public hearings
within the villages to seek input from the community on just compensation
specific to the atrocities inflicted on the residents of Guam by the Japanese
Imperial Military Forces; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou is a strong advocate for victim’s rights,
attended the Forum on Victim’s Policy sponsored by the National Conference
of State Legislators, has worked tirelessly with the Legislative and the Judicial
branches to make significant changes in law that affects victims of crime,
supports victim’s services such as VARO, Alee Shelter, Healing Hearts Crisis
Center, the Attorney General’s Crime Victim’s Response Unit and is an active
participate with the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, co-
chairing its yearly conference for two consecutive years; and
WHEREAS, Senator Lou has been actively involved with the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), has served as Vice Chair for the APIL Regional Health Council and worked collaboratively with island leaders from Hawaii, American Samoa, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Saipan and Guam to pass numerous resolutions to improve healthcare in our region; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lou was Past President for the Guam Nurses Association and People of Choice, and is still actively involved in numerous community organizations and activities which includes sitting on the board of the American Cancer Society, Guam Heart Association, Catholic Social Services, the Organization of Health and Medical Professional Women, a Charter Member for the Marianas International Soroptomist and the American Pacific Nurse Leaders Council which has evolved into a powerful group of men and women bringing nursing issues to the forefront of our island leaders; and

WHEREAS, she continues to be an active board member for St. John’s School, Mercy Action Marianas, Ltd., Micronesian Institute for Disease Prevention & Research and the Bank of Guam; and,

WHEREAS, Lou Leon Guerrero will forever be remembered as a staunch advocate for healthcare on our island, as a Senator for ten (10) years in the Guam Legislature and through her community involvement and visionary legislation, she has significantly impacted and improved the lives of
RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of I Mina Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan, does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guahan and the people of Guam wish to honor and congratulate Lou Leon Guerrero for her outstanding service to the People of Guam as a Senator in the Guam Legislature for the past ten years; and, be it further RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Executive Committee certify and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I Maga’lahen Guåhan; and Mrs. Eugenia Aflague Leon Guerrero, mother of Lou Leon Guerrero.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA’BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____ DAY OF MARCH 2006.

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MARK FORBES          EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Speaker and          Senator and
Chairman, Executive Committee  Secretary of the Legislature