

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2006 (SECOND) Regular Session

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.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA'**
2 **BENTE OCHO N A LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:**

3 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou Leon Guerrero, affectionately known as
4 "Senator Lou" was born on November 8, 1950 to Jesus Sablan (deceased) and
5 Eugenia Aflague Leon Guerrero and is sister to Jesse and Tony (deceased);
6 and

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

9 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou was a bonafide "Soccer Mom" when her
10 children were young at which time she would often be seen on the soccer field
11 doing the "wave" on many occasions, and is still a very supportive and

1. Introduction

1 encouraging mother; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou began to build a foundation of public service
22 in the effort to promote quality healthcare services, thus began working as a

1 staff nurse educator at the Guam Memorial Hospital and then moving on to
2 become the Assistant Director of Nursing; and

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

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

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

21 **WHEREAS**, desiring to make an even greater contribution to the island,
22 she launched a bid to serve in the executive branch as a Lt. Governor

1 candidate with Senator Tom Ada and decided not to stand for election to the
2 26th Guam Legislature; and

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

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

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

17 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou working together with community members,
18 stakeholders and organizational leaders introduced groundbreaking
19 legislation as a freshman senator that created the Department of Integrated
20 Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID) to address fragmented
21 services that negatively impacted individuals with disabilities on our island;
22 and

1 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou, as a professional nurse for many years
2 encountered numerous individuals expressing their desire to meet death with
3 dignity, and, having a kind and generous heart was affected by their cries for
4 help, thus as a legislator sought to restore dignity in their death, she
5 established the Natural Death Act which allows individuals a right to declare
6 their wishes relating to their medical care; and

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

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

20 **WHEREAS**, ever mindful of the importance and power of advocacy,
21 especially on behalf of individuals who cannot speak or defend themselves,
22 she created the Guam Systems of Care Council which allows parents of

1 children with emotional disturbances to advocate for their children; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou established the Division of Emergency Medical
3 Services within the Guam Memorial Hospital to streamline emergency
4 services between the Fire Department and the Guam Memorial Hospital; and

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

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

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

18 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou introduced compelling legislation to raise the
19 tobacco tax and alcohol tax on Guam where the monies were deposited into
20 special funds called the *Healthy Futures Fund* and the *Safe Home Safe Streets*
21 *Fund*, a direct funding source to support programs within numerous
22 government agencies specifically geared toward the prevention and education

1 of the negative affects of tobacco and alcohol use on our island, especially for
2 our youth; and

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

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

15 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou is a strong advocate for victim’s rights,
16 attended the Forum on Victim’s Policy sponsored by the National Conference
17 of State Legislators, has worked tirelessly with the Legislative and the Judicial
18 branches to make significant changes in law that affects victims of crime,
19 supports victim’s services such as VARO, Alee Shelter, Healing Hearts Crisis
20 Center, the Attorney General’s Crime Victim’s Response Unit and is an active
21 participate with the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, co-
22 chairing its yearly conference for two consecutive years; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Senator Lou has been actively involved with the
2 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), has served as Vice Chair for
3 the APIL Regional Health Council and worked collaboratively with island
4 leaders from Hawaii, American Samoa, Palau, the Federated States of
5 Micronesia, Saipan and Guam to pass numerous resolutions to improve
6 healthcare in our region; and

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

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

19 **WHEREAS**, Lou Leon Guerrero will forever be remembered as a
20 staunch advocate for healthcare on our island, as a Senator for ten (10) years
21 in the Guam Legislature and through her community involvement and
22 visionary legislation, she has significantly impacted and improved the lives of

1 the People of Guam; now, therefore, be it

2 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina Bente Ocho Na*
3 *Liheslaturan Guahan*, does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* and the
4 people of Guam wish to honor and congratulate Lou Leon Guerrero for her
5 outstanding service to the People of Guam as a Senator in the Guam
6 Legislature for the past ten years; and, be it further

7 **RESOLVED**, that the Chairman of the Executive Committee certify and
8 the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of
9 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
10 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*; and Mrs. Eugenia Aflague Leon Guerrero, mother of Lou
11 Leon Guerrero.

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

MARK FORBES
Speaker and
Chairman, Executive Committee

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature