

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

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
385-37 (LS)	Telo T. Taitague Joanne M. Brown Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Tina Rose Muña Barnes Amanda L. Shelton Christopher M. Dueñas Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Jesse A. Lujan Frank Blas, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin William A. Parkinson Roy A. B. Quinata Chris Barnett	Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Rita T. Franquez for her dedication to the island and people of Guam, and commemorating her legacy of service to the <i>CHamoru</i> heritage, culture, and a visionary leader; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing.	4/23/24 3:35 p.m.	4/25/24 8:30 a.m.	4/23/24					

Resolution No. 385-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Jelo J. Taitano  
Joanne M. Biosa  
Theresa M. Tolaj  
Sabina Joyce Perez  
Tina Rose Marie Barnes  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Christopher M. Ducas  
Deanne E. D. San Nicolas  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Frank Blas, Jr.  
Jose N. San Agustin  
William A. Parkerson  
Ros A. B. Quinata  
Chris Harriet  
Thomas J. Fisher



Marc Calvey  
4-25-24  
8:16 a.m.

Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Rita T. Franquez for her dedication to the island and people of Guam, and commemorating her legacy of service to the *CHamoru* heritage, culture, and a visionary leader; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon *Liheslaturan Guahan* to honor the remarkable lives and achievements of distinguished individuals who have made substantial contributions to preserving and perpetuating the rich tapestry of our island's heritage and to commend and celebrate those whose unwavering passion and determination have left an indelible mark on their community and culture, embodying the spirit of service and dedication that defines the essence of our great island; and

WHEREAS, one such visionary leader was the late Rita T. Franquez, a proud *CHamoru* and daughter of Guam born and raised in the island's capital of *Hagåtña*, who traced her lineage far back beyond the Spanish colonial era; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita was born June 25, 1933, to Maria Concepcion Torres (mother) and Joaquin Iglesias Franquez (father). She was later blessed with three (3) beautiful children, Ron, Renee, and Rema; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita was a survivor of the atrocities of WWII, enduring captivity on separate occasions. Initially held in a Japanese concentration camp in *Maniagogan*, she was later held as a prisoner of war in *Ayuga Heights* after the island's liberation by the Americans. The Americans mistook her and her mother as Japanese due to their appearance and fluency in Japanese, as they were captured while fleeing the violence in the jungle. Many esteemed civic leaders, including relatives such as Agueda Johnston and Ton Eduardo Calvo, advocated for the liberation of the late Rita and her mother. These experiences catalyzed her enduring legacy of civic engagement and resilience;

WHEREAS, while she prioritized her duties as a mother, the late Rita's dedication to her heritage led her to return to the workforce, where she made significant contributions to education and cultural preservation; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita's profound love for her island and culture fueled her steadfast belief in the importance of preserving traditions and inspired her lifelong dedication to their perpetuation and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita devoted twenty (20) years to her role as an educator, displaying her passion and drive to leave a lasting impact on her students. During her initial years in teaching, she participated in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE); and

WHEREAS, the late Rita's impact as an educator transcends generations, being the inaugural recipient of the esteemed "Teacher of the Year" award from GDOE. At the time, receiving this honor entailed rigorous competition among the most distinguished educators. Participants were tasked with teaching at a school other than their own, presenting their lesson plans, and instructing students before a panel of judges. Following the lesson, students were assessed for mastery, evaluating both the effectiveness of the lesson plan and its delivery; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita served as Director for the Guam Museum, where she was instrumental in the separation of the museum from the Guam Library and the relocation from its original cramped and dilapidated quarters in the Plaza de España to the Governor's Hall behind the Governor's office at *Ablaga*; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita's leadership marked a transformative period in the Guam Museum's history, spearheading the repatriation of artifacts from the Hornbostel collection in Hawaii to establish a dedicated space within the Guam Museum for highlighting *CHamoru* history and culture; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita's efforts extended beyond her tenure at the Guam Museum, as she played a leading role in various initiatives aimed at preserving *CHamoru* history, including her involvement in the development of the New Guam Museum and the establishment of the *Maniagogan* WWII memorial; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita is remembered as a founding Member for the Board of the *Maniagogan* Memorial Foundation. History will revere her as the driving force behind persuading Dwight Look to convey the area where the annual Memorial to the *Maniagogan* Memorial Foundation is held. In a restaurant to her unwavering determination, Rita drove to Dwight Look's residence in *Maniagogan*. There, she introduced herself, advocating for the conveyance of the sacred site to the Foundation. Dwight Look invited her in, where they discussed the matter over maps. Rita pointed out the area on the map, and Dwight Look, in agreement, drew a circle around it. The following week, he presented her with the Deed; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita's dedication extended beyond her professional endeavors as she advocated for Indigenous rights and the inalienable right of self-determination. Additionally, she actively served in numerous volunteer roles with organizations such as the USO and contributed as a member to the Hagåtña Restoration & Redevelopment Authority; and

WHEREAS, the late Rita T. Franquez's legacy is one of tireless dedication to safeguarding *CHamoru* heritage and culture for posterity, championing Indigenous rights and self-determination, and propelling the advancement of Guam as a token of gratitude for her enduring impact on the community and culture she loved so dearly; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, posthumously recognize the late Rita T. Franquez, for her dedication to the island and people of Guam, and commemorate her legacy of service to the *CHamoru* heritage, culture, and a visionary leader; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing; 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 the late Rita T. Franquez's family, and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Mangilagan Guahan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2024.

  
THERESA M. TOLAJE  
Speaker

  
AMANDA L. SHELTON  
Legislative Secretary



***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2024 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 385-37 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague  
Joanne M. Brown  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Frank Blas, Jr.  
Joe S. San Agustin  
William A. Parkinson  
Roy A. B. Quinata  
Chris Barnett  
Thomas J. Fisher

**Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Rita T. Franquez for her dedication to the island and people of Guam, and commemorating her legacy of service to the *CHamoru* heritage, culture, and a visionary leader; and expressing condolences to her family on her passing.**

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

3        **WHEREAS,** it is incumbent upon *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to honor the  
4 remarkable lives and achievements of distinguished individuals who have made  
5 substantial contributions to preserving and perpetuating the rich tapestry of our island's  
6 heritage and to commend and celebrate those whose unwavering passion and

1 determination have left an indelible mark on their community and culture, embodying  
2 the spirit of service and dedication that defines the essence of our great island; and

3 **WHEREAS**, one such visionary leader was the late Rita T. Franquez, a proud  
4 *CHamoru* and daughter of Guam born and raised in the island's capital of *Hagåtña*,  
5 who traced her lineage far back beyond the Spanish colonial era; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the late Rita was born June 25, 1933, to Maria Concepcion Torres  
7 (mother) and Joaquin Iglesias Franquez (father). She was later blessed with three (3)  
8 beautiful children, Ron, Renée, and Reina; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the late Rita was a survivor of the atrocities of WWII, enduring  
10 captivity on separate occasions. Initially held in a Japanese concentration camp in  
11 *Mañenggon*, she was later held as a prisoner of war in *Agana Heights* after the island's  
12 liberation by the Americans. The Americans mistook her and her mother as Japanese  
13 due to their appearance and fluency in Japanese, as they were captured while fleeing  
14 the violence in the jungle. Many esteemed civic leaders, including relatives such as  
15 Agueda Johnston and Tun Eduardo Calvo, advocated for the liberation of the late Rita  
16 and her mother. These experiences catalyzed her enduring legacy of civic engagement  
17 and resilience.

18 **WHEREAS**, while she prioritized her duties as a mother, the late Rita's  
19 dedication to her heritage led her to return to the workforce, where she made significant  
20 contributions to education and cultural preservation; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the late Rita's profound love for her island and culture fueled her  
22 steadfast belief in the importance of preserving traditions and inspired her lifelong  
23 dedication to their perpetuation and conservation; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita devoted twenty (20) years to her role as an educator,  
2 displaying her passion and drive to leave a lasting impact on her students. During her  
3 initial years in teaching, she participated in the Gifted and Talented Education  
4 (G.A.T.E) program for the Guam Department of Education (GDOE); and

5           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita’s impact as an educator transcends generations, being  
6 the inaugural recipient of the esteemed “Teacher of the Year” award from GDOE. At  
7 the time, receiving this honor entailed rigorous competition among the most  
8 distinguished educators. Participants were tasked with teaching at a school other than  
9 their own, presenting their lesson plans, and instructing students before a panel of  
10 judges. Following the lesson, students were assessed for mastery, evaluating both the  
11 effectiveness of the lesson plan and its delivery; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita served as Director for the Guam Museum, where she  
13 was instrumental in the separation of the museum from the Guam Library and the  
14 relocation from its original cramped and dilapidated quarters in the Plaza de España to  
15 the Governor’s Hall behind the Governor’s office at *Adelup*; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita’s leadership marked a transformative period in the  
17 Guam Museum’s history, spearheading the repatriation of artifacts from the Hornbostel  
18 collection in Hawaii to establish a dedicated space within the Guam Museum for  
19 highlighting *CHamoru* history and culture; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita’s efforts extended beyond her tenure at the Guam  
21 Museum, as she played a leading role in various initiatives aimed at preserving  
22 *CHamoru* history, including her involvement in the development of the New Guam  
23 Museum and the establishment of the *Mañenggon* WWII memorial; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita is remembered as a founding Member for the Board  
2 of the *Mañenggon* Memorial Foundation. History will revere her as the driving force  
3 behind persuading Dwight Look to convey the area where the annual Memorial to the  
4 *Mañenggon* Memorial Foundation is held. In a testament to her unwavering  
5 determination, Rita drove to Dwight Look’s residence in *Mañenggon*. There, she  
6 introduced herself, advocating for the conveyance of the sacred site to the Foundation.  
7 Dwight Look invited her in, where they discussed the matter over maps. Rita pointed  
8 out the area on the map, and Dwight Look, in agreement, drew a circle around it. The  
9 following week, he presented her with the Deed; and

10           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita’s dedication extended beyond her professional  
11 endeavors as she advocated for Indigenous rights and the inalienable right of self-  
12 determination. Additionally, she actively served in numerous volunteer roles with  
13 organizations such as the USO and contributed as a member to the Hagåtña Restoration  
14 & Redevelopment Authority; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the late Rita T. Franquez’s legacy is one of tireless dedication to  
16 safeguarding *CHamoru* heritage and culture for posterity, championing indigenous  
17 rights and self-determination, and propelling the advancement of Guam as a token of  
18 gratitude for her enduring impact on the community and culture she loved so dearly;  
19 now therefore, be it

20           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
21 on behalf of the people of Guam, posthumously recognize the late Rita T. Franquez, for  
22 her dedication to the island and people of Guam, and commemorate her legacy of  
23 service to the *CHamoru* heritage, culture, and a visionary leader; and expressing  
24 condolences to her family on her passing; and be it further

1           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
2 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the late Rita T.  
3 Franquez’s family; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*  
4 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2024.**



**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker



**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary



OFFICE OF SENATOR  
*Telo T. Taitague*

Ste. 309 DNA Building  
238 Archbishop Flores St.  
Hagatña, Guam 96910  
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*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan · 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

April 23, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators  
From: Senator Telo T. Taitague  
Subject: **Presentation of Resolution No. 385-37 (LS)**

*Hafa adai!*

Please join me in presenting **Resolution No. 385-37 (LS)**, relative to posthumously honoring the legacy of Rita T. Franquez, recognizing her as a champion of *Chamoru* heritage and culture, and a visionary leader whose contributions enriched the lives of countless individuals in *Guåhan* and beyond.

The presentation is scheduled for **Thursday, April 25, 2024, 8:30 a.m.** at the St. Therese Chapel in Hagatña.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

*Senseramente,*

**TELO T. TAITAGUE**  
Senator

cc: Clerks  
Sergeant-At-Arms  
MIS