

I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 208-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

A. B. Palacios, Sr.
F. B. Aguon, Jr.

Relative to congratulating the George Washington High School Class of 1959 on their Golden Class Reunion and to commend them for their lifelong friendships that they have established and shared among themselves and their families.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:**

2 **WHEREAS**, on October 31, 1936, a building was constructed and dedicated to the
3 hardworking, intelligent, young men and women of Guam's Education Department and in
4 honor of the first President of the United States and its Territories, George Washington
5 High School (GWHS) was established by Governor Benjamin McCandlish; and

6 **WHEREAS**, when the educational institution opened its doors in July of 1936, Mrs.
7 Agueda Iglesias Johnston, a prominent Chamorro woman educator became the first
8 presiding principal of George Washington High School. On March 31, 1937, sixty-four (64)
9 young men and women proudly graduated from the ninth (9th) grade and in June of 1940,
10 the first senior class graduated; and

11 **WHEREAS**, between the years of 1945 to 1950, the GWHS campus would shift from
12 Sinajaña to the 5th Marine Depot in Mongmong due to the large number of students who
13 enrolled after the ravages of World War II; and

14 **WHEREAS**, between the years of 1953-1959, the student population at GWHS
15 increased to over two thousand two hundred (2,200) students whereby the faculty and staff
16 would have to cope with housing and accommodating each student, transforming quonset

1 huts into classrooms. Soon, accreditation would begin and in 1957, GWHS became a
2 member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (NCA); and

3 **WHEREAS**, the commencement of the George Washington High School (GWHS)
4 graduating Class of 1959 was conducted on June 3, 1959 with two hundred and seventy
5 (270) graduating high school seniors becoming the 19th class to graduate from GWHS; and

6 **WHEREAS**, upon graduation, the GWHS Class of 1959 ventured into the world to
7 become outstanding achievers in various sectors of society at the local, national and
8 international levels; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the graduates of the GWHS Class of 1959 exemplified great effort to
10 reflect the mission and vision of their alma mater: “to provide students the skills and
11 knowledge they need to make wise decisions and be good productive citizens in the
12 community;” and

13 **WHEREAS**, the GWHS Class of 1959 exemplified the mission of the school by
14 working long hours, living in modest neighborhoods, raising their families with the values
15 cherished by the island community, struggling after WWII to create a better future for
16 themselves and their children by going to trade school, joining the U.S. Armed Forces,
17 entering into the Government of Guam workforce, becoming educational leaders by
18 entering the Territorial College of Guam, now the University of Guam, under the
19 Department of Education, and other private business enterprises, ultimately becoming
20 valued members of the world community by assisting when called upon, contributing to
21 various civic and religious organizations; and

22 **WHEREAS**, some members of the GWHS Class of 1959 have volunteered their time
23 to form a planning committee for the GWHS Golden Class Reunion in creating a festive
24 and successful event by fostering a sense of loyalty and fraternity among the 1959
25 graduates of GWHS and by promoting the general welfare of classmates in support of the
26 high school located now in Mangilao, Guam; and

