

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 409-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio
J.P. Guthertz, DPA
B.I.F. Cruz

2010 JUN 18 AM 11:46

Relative to recognizing and expressing a most sincere *Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase'* to Reverend E. Neil Culbertson for his contributions to our island community; and extending him best wishes on behalf of the people of Guam on his relocation.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** Reverend E. Neil Culbertson was born on May 11, 1954
4 in Klamath Falls, Oregon, where he spent his childhood years; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Culbertson enlisted in the United States Army,
6 serving as a Chaplain's Assistant, and earned his High School Equivalency
7 Degree though the U.S. Armed Forces in 1972; and

8 **WHEREAS,** upon completion of his military service, Reverend
9 Culbertson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Classical Studies: Ancient
10 & Medieval History, Philosophy, and Languages from Dordt College in
11 Sioux Center, Iowa in 1979, and in 1983 earned a Masters of Divinity from
12 Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was
13 ordained a Minister of the Word and Sacrament; and

14 **WHEREAS,** during his college years, Reverend Culbertson
15 maintained high academic standings, becoming a published writer and
16 leading two conference workshops examining Dating & Relationships from
17 a Christian perspective; and

18 **WHEREAS,** from 1983 to 1990 Reverend Culbertson served as a
19 missionary-pastor for Christian Reformed World Missions, with an
20 assignment to the Faith Presbyterian Reformed Church of Guam, which at

1 that time had been a missionary dependent organization for some 30+
2 years; and

3 **WHEREAS**, beginning in 1990 the congregation fully supported its
4 pastor and all ministry operations and Reverend Culbertson became its
5 first “called” pastor, the Church holding its first official service in its new
6 ministry facilities, an over \$1.4 Million project, on May 12, 2004; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, the Little Lambs Pre-school & Daycare was
8 established as an extension of the congregational ministries of the Church;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Faith Presbyterian Reformed Church of Guam was
11 received into full membership of the Christian Reformed Church of
12 America (CRCNA) through Classis Greater Los Angeles, a regional
13 grouping of Christian Reformed churches of the greater Los Angeles area,
14 Hawaii and Guam; and

15 **WHEREAS**, during his tenure at the Church, Pastor Culbertson also
16 gave of his time to other organizations, including serving from the early
17 1980’s to 2008 as a Board Member and in other capacities for the Pacific
18 Islands Bible College, with a goal of establishing higher theological and
19 biblical training of island pastors and future Christian workers, achieving
20 full DOE accreditation, and founding a Guam campus with enrollment of
21 more than 75 students, alongside a similar number of students attending
22 the Chuuk campus; and

23 **WHEREAS**, During the mid-1980’s he served as a Board Member
24 and, briefly, as President of the Bible Society of Micronesia, under the
25 umbrella of the United Bibles Societies, to promote biblical literacy among
26 Guam’s children in all elementary and private schools; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Culbertson continues as a volunteer with the
28 Prison Fellowship Guam Chapter, speaking at services organized by prison
29 chaplains associated with the Prison Ministry, and

1 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Culbertson has been a member of the Guam
2 Ministerial Association since 1983, serving variously as President, Vice
3 President or Secretary/Treasurer until 2008, and also served as
4 Administrator for the Guam Ministerial Health Plan, providing grou
5 medical and dental insurance for various pastors, interdenominational
6 missions and other church workers who do not have access to well-
7 established denominational plans; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Culbertson served with other community
9 leaders, at the invitation of then-Governor Carl Gutierrez, on the Guam
10 Vision 2000 Committee, to create the overall agenda for the Governor’s
11 vision of a comprehensive plan for improving services and the quality of
12 life in Guam; and

13 **WHEREAS**, under the auspices of the Guam Ministerial Association,
14 Reverend Culbertson employed a volunteer panel of local mental health
15 professionals, counselors, and clergy for the Island-Leaders Conference on
16 the Blight of Pornography, making a presentation to a majority of the
17 Guam Legislature and then-Governor Joseph Ada and First Lady Roseanne
18 Ada, receiving a Legislative Resolution commending the GMA for its
19 contribution to the social and spiritual health of Guam; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Culbertson assisted frequently with the Guam
21 celebrations of The National Day of Prayer, held frequently at Government
22 House in Agana Heights and in coordination with the National Day of
23 Prayer association, and in 1989 gave the keynote address to assembled
24 clergy, government officials and friends; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the good Reverend served as President of the Guam
26 Running Club from 2002 – 2004, his interest in running turning into an
27 invitation to lead the club’s 250 members, and during his tenure developed
28 the club’s website, winning a best website award from Run The Planet in

1 November 2002, and receiving over 50,000 worldwide visits in its first five
2 years of operation; and

3 **WHEREAS**, as GRC president he became Director of The Guam
4 Marathon for 2002 through 2004, designing the new Guam Marathon
5 course when the original course had become too dangerous; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Reverend Culbertson has also been a member of the
7 Andersen Air Force Base 3rd Division Civilian Advisory Committee; was
8 an emcee for the Community Forum Series on Decision Making at Life's
9 End in 2006; served as a member on then-Lieutenant Governor Madeleine
10 Bordallo's Committee on Protocol, resulting in formalizing the inclusion of
11 Protestant clergy with Catholic clergy in all official judicial, legislative and
12 executive branch addresses; and was a 2006 Member of the Governor's
13 Military/Civilian Task Force on Education Realignment, helping to shape
14 the future direction of cooperation between military, public and private
15 schools; now therefore, be it

16 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules, on behalf of *I Mina' Trenta*
17 *na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, does hereby recognize and
18 commend Reverend E. Neil Culbertson for his numerous contributions to
19 our island community and his life's work in strengthening the faith of our
20 people and bringing the teachings of the Bible to the people of Guam, and
21 to extend to him our most heartfelt *Un Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'åse* and best
22 wishes on behalf of the people of Guam on his relocation; and be it further

23 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee
24 on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof,
25 and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Reverend E.
26 Neil Culbertson and his wife of 30 years, Janie-Lou Kannegieter
27 Culbertson; and to the Faith Presbyterian Reformed Church of Guam; and
28 to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'Lahen Guåhan*.