

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 557-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
J. P. Guthertz, DPA
V. C. Pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
V. A. Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
B. J.F. Cruz
Chris M. Dueñas
Sam A. Mabini, Ph.D.
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Tajeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.

Relative to recognizing and memorializing the life and contributions of the late Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson, an educator, volunteer, scholar, advocate for social change and educational reform, and educational pioneer; and a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, mentor and surrogate; and whose work, thoughts, inspiration, and influence has left an indelible mark upon our island community, in the hearts and minds of countless numbers of individuals and families; and whose lifelong commitment to improving life on Guam has contributed to the improvement of public policy and the strengthening of the social fabric of our community, and has forever positively influenced Guam's history for the better.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* acknowledges that Gloria Camacho Borja
4 Nelson was a pillar in our community whose lifelong commitment to improving life
5 on Guam is manifested in the numerous laws, policies and programs she influenced
6 and helped to create; and whose lifelong commitment to improving life on Guam
7 helped lay foundational footprints upon the path towards social and educational
8 reform; and whose lifelong commitment to improving life on Guam through the
9 uplifting of the less fortunate and disenfranchised, in many ways raised the bar and
10 fostered a greater awareness and need to act through selfless service; and

11 **WHEREAS,** Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson, lovingly known as “Lola”, was
12 born in *Hagåtña* to Luis Quitugua Borja and Maria Desa Camacho; she is married to
13 the Honorable Theodore “Ted” S. Nelson, former Vice Speaker of *I Liheslaturan*
14 *Guåhan*, and together they raised four (4) children: Gwen, Ted, Glenn and Rhonda;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS,** after receiving her high school diploma from George Washington
17 High School on Guam, Gloria’s belief in the value of a higher education, and her
18 persistence and commitment to educational excellence, led to her attaining a Master of
19 Science Degree from the University of New Mexico; completing her post-graduate
20 studies in Reading from the University of California at Los Angeles, and in
21 Educational Law and Statistics from the University of Oregon at Portland; attaining
22 her Bachelor of Science Degree from the Ohio State University, and an Associate of
23 Arts Degree from the Territorial College of Guam; and

24 **WHEREAS,** Gloria Nelson’s distinguished record of service, professional and
25 educational accomplishments, and volunteerism contributed to her being the recipient
26 of numerous awards and scholarships, to include: the Ohio State University

1 Scholarship; the Territorial College of Guam Scholarship; Educational Honors in the
2 Elementary, Secondary and College levels; the Guam Women's Club recognition for
3 Outstanding Accomplishments; a Resolution for Outstanding Accomplishments by the
4 Territorial Board of Education; an Outstanding Performance Recognition as Principal
5 by the *Adelup* Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association; Recognition by the
6 Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for Outstanding Leadership and Support;
7 Recognition for Outstanding Leadership and Support by the Guam Department of
8 Education Maintenance Employees' Association; and the *Chief Quipuha* Award by the
9 late Honorable Ricardo J. Bordallo, former Governor of Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Gloria Nelson's vast professional and personal experiences
11 include her faithful, dedicated and effective service as a public school teacher,
12 Principal, Associate Superintendent, School Program Consultant, Deputy Director,
13 and Director for the Guam Department of Education; an *Eskuelan Pâle'* teacher for
14 the *Mongmong* Catholic Church; an Instructor at the University of Guam; an
15 Administrator for the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA); and a
16 Special Assistant to *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Gloria Nelson's educational and professional achievements
18 identifies her as a pioneer and consummate professional for her work as the
19 Educational Centennial Planning Committee Chairperson, and Centennial Task Force
20 Member; she directed the development of a "Blue Print for Excellence" for the Guam
21 Department of Education, under the Office of the Governor; she was instrumental in
22 establishing the first Palau high school in Koror, Palau; she was an Officer and
23 Member of the Elementary School Principals Association; she was an Assistant to the
24 Professor teaching English as a Second Language in New Mexico; she established the
25 first school-wide Synchronized Marching Competition; she implemented the
26 "Opportunity Rooms" in the middle and high schools; she was instrumental in

1 establishing, with the University of Oregon, the DOE and UOG Doctoral Program,
2 which had over thirty (30) administrators graduating with doctoral degrees in
3 education; she volunteered at Price Elementary School with Dr. Jose Cruz to develop
4 the first Board approved School Improvement Plan; she was an Officer and Secretary
5 of the Territorial College of Guam Student Organization; she established the
6 “Celebration of Scholars” at all the public schools; she was an Officer and Member of
7 the Association of School Administrators (Elementary and Secondary); she was
8 President of the *Mongmong* Elementary School PTA; she directed the first DOE
9 District Office Self-Study; she was a Member of the Computer Task Force
10 Committee, the Diversified Occupation Program, the National Retired Teachers
11 Association (NRTA), and the Association for Supervision Curriculum and
12 Development (ASCD); she implemented the "Homework Hotline" in the public
13 schools; she implemented and directed various educational workshops, meetings and
14 seminars for professional and non-professional government employees, teachers,
15 substitute teachers and bus drivers; she directed the island-wide annual educational
16 festivals, musicals, academics, and the arts competitions; she initiated the first high
17 school summer graduation program for the public schools; and she initiated the Head
18 Start Program at the public elementary schools; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Gloria Nelson’s profound knowledge, experience, and expertise
20 in educational policy, social advocacy, and humanitarian aid brought invaluable depth
21 to those positions she held, and the local, regional, and national organizations she
22 either served in or founded, such as: Vice Chairperson and Secretary of the
23 Consolidated Commission on Utilities (CCU); Chairperson and Member of the
24 Elected Territorial Board of Education; Member of the National Association of State
25 Boards of Education (NASBE) Accountability Study Group; Chairperson of the Joint
26 Boards of Education pursuant to Public Law 15-44; Board Member of Guam's first

1 Pacific Region Educational and Learning Program (PREL); Chairperson of the Guam
2 Election Commission; Member of the American Red Cross Board; Member of the
3 Northwest Educational Laboratory Board; President of the Interfaith Volunteer
4 Caregivers, Inc. (Local and National); Board Member of the Chief State School
5 Officers; Board of Directors member and Vice President of the Latte of Freedom
6 Foundation; Chairperson of the Vocational Rehabilitation Board of Control; Member
7 of the Developmental Disabilities Council; Founder of *Ayuda I Manmalangu Guåhan*,
8 Inc.; and a Member of the Board of Regents, University of Guam; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Gloria Nelson’s demonstrated commitment to the people of Guam
10 is abundantly evident in the more than thirty (30) years of dedicated service in a
11 variety of positions and organizations, to include serving as the Board President of the
12 Guam Lytico/Bodig Organization, and as the Founder and President of *Dinaña Para I*
13 *Direchun Guåhan* Retirees & Survivors, Inc.; organizing the Neighborhood Tutorial
14 Program and Activities; assisting in the upgrade of the Los Angeles Medical Referral
15 Office; running as a Candidate for Lt. Governor in 1994; serving as an Acting
16 President of the Guam Association of Retired Persons (GARP), and as a Member of
17 the American Association of Retired Persons (National); she was instrumental in
18 establishing the Adolescent Residential Treatment Center; she was a Humanitarian
19 Volunteer Shelteree for Young Adults and Elders; she was the President and Advisor
20 of the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Youth Division; she was a Chairperson of the
21 *Fiestan* Guam/Liberation Day; she was a Member of the Governor's Task Force on
22 CETA Restoration; she was instrumental in establishing the Agency for Human
23 Resources Development (AHRD); she was the Administrator of the Federal Disaster
24 Assistance Act (FDAA) Guam Office; she was an Advisor of the Youth Incorporated
25 Organization; she was a Member of the Columbus Newman Hall Choir (Catholic) at
26 the Ohio State University; she was the Girl Scouts Master of *Mongmong/Toto/Maite*;

1 she was a Youth Advisor of Teen Challenge; she was the President of the Sodality of
2 Mary in *Mongmong*; she was a Member of the Guam Women's Club, and a Member
3 of the Marianas Association of Disabled Citizens; she was a Coordinator of the DOE
4 Vietnam Refugee Feeding in "Operation New Life"; she was the Chairperson of the
5 *Yigo* Scrutinization Committee (Land for the Landless); she was a Delegate and Vice
6 Chairperson at the Democratic National Convention, and the President of the Guam
7 Democratic Women's Organization, which is affiliated with the national organization;
8 she was the Chairperson of Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo's Gubernatorial
9 Inauguration Committee; she was a Chairperson of the Democratic Jefferson/Jackson
10 Celebration; she was the Chairperson of the DOE Apprenticeship Program; she was a
11 Member of the Credentials Committee at the Democratic National Convention in
12 1992, and a Member of the Platform Committee at the Democratic National
13 Convention in Georgia, in 1988; she initiated the first Guam Lytico/Bodig Telethon
14 (assisted by the state of Hawaii); she was the Chairperson of the *Fuetsan Famalao'an*
15 Organization; she was a Member of the Catholic Daughters of America; she was
16 included in the book "Who's Who in *Chamorro* History" (Vol. II); she was a
17 Chairperson of the Territorial Board of Education, and was instrumental in the
18 renaming of the *Yigo* Elementary School and the *Dededo* Middle School to Daniel L.
19 Perez Elementary School and Vicente S.A. Benavente Middle School, respectively;
20 she directed and implemented the "Penny Drive" island-wide school campaign to raise
21 funds for the Latte of Freedom, one of the late Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo's
22 projects; and she was the Founder of *Fiestan Guam Rainan Gracia*; additionally,
23 because of her compassionate nature, Lola had adopted two (2) Palauan students to
24 pursue their education on Guam, and she sheltered youths and adults who were
25 homeless and at-risk; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson, in her thirteen (13) year long fight
2 for retirees in the Cost Of Living Allowance (COLA) class action lawsuit, along with
3 her good friend, Candelaria “Lala” Rios, earned her the nickname, “Lola Cola”; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the late Gloria Nelson’s lifelong commitment to serving the
5 people of Guam, her accomplishments as an educator, senior member of government,
6 elected official, volunteer, and family woman shall forever illuminate the good in
7 Guam and in humankind, will further enhance our collective efforts to improve the
8 living conditions of the *Chamorro* people and those who choose to make Guam their
9 home, and advocate for the enhanced treatment of the downtrodden and
10 disenfranchised, thereby distinguishing Gloria Camacho Borja Nelson as a
11 quintessential and unforgettable portrait of one of Guam’s most remarkably
12 compassionate, educated, charismatic and forceful women for change and social
13 justice; now therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina’Trentai Unu Na*
15 *Lihe slaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf *I Lihe slaturan Guåhan* and the people of
16 Guam, recognize and memorialize the life and contributions of Gloria (Lola) Camacho
17 Borja Nelson, who was a lifelong educator, volunteer, scholar, advocate for social
18 change and educational reform, and educational pioneer; and a loving wife, mother,
19 grandmother, great grandmother, mentor and surrogate; and whose work, thoughts,
20 inspiration, and influence has left an indelible mark upon our island community, in the
21 hearts and minds of countless numbers of individuals and families; and whose lifelong
22 commitment to improving life on Guam contributed to the improvement of public
23 policy and the strengthening of the social fabric of our community; and she has
24 forever positively influenced Guam’s history for the better; and be it further

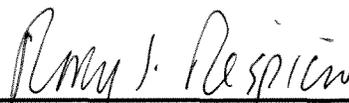
25 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
26 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of

- 1 the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of the late Gloria Camacho Borja
- 2 Nelson; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS 18th DAY
OF OCTOBER 2012.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary