

*I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**BILL STATUS**

| BILL NO.    | SPONSOR   | TITLE  | DATE INTRODUCED      | DATE REFERRED | CMTE REFERRED | FISCAL NOTES | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED | NOTES |
|-------------|---|--|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 92-38 (COR) | Sabrina Salas Matanane<br>Frank F. Blas, Jr<br>Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao<br>Christopher M. Dueñas<br>Vincent A. V. Borja<br>Telo T. Taitague<br>Chris Barnett<br>Shelly V. Calvo<br>V. Anthony Ada<br>Jesse A. Lujan<br>William A. Parkinson<br>Joe S. San Agustin<br>Tina Rose Muña Barnes<br>Therese M. Terlaje<br>Sabina Flores Perez | AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS "VETERANS SERVICE RECOGNITION MONTH" IN GUAM AND ESTABLISHING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO HONOR AND SUPPORT VETERANS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. | 3/18/25<br>9:42 a.m. |               |               |              |                     |                             |       |

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2025 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 92-38 (COR)**

Introduced by:

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Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao *J*  
Christopher M. Dueñas *CD*  
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Telo T. Taitague *TT*  
Chris Barnett *CB*  
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**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 1041 TO CHAPTER 10, TITLE 1, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS "VETERANS SERVICE RECOGNITION MONTH" IN GUAM AND ESTABLISHING PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO HONOR AND SUPPORT VETERANS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that throughout our island's history, the people of Guam have answered America's  
4 call to service with unwavering dedication and extraordinary valor. From the  
5 beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Korea, from the jungles of Vietnam to the

1 deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, sons and daughters of Guam have served with  
2 distinction in every major conflict since World War I. This legacy of service is  
3 woven deeply into the fabric of our island's culture, where warrior traditions of  
4 ancient *CHamoru* society find modern expression in military service to the United  
5 States of America.

6         Since Guam became a U.S. territory in 1898, our sons and daughters have  
7 fought and sacrificed in every major American conflict: in the trenches of World  
8 War I; across the Pacific Theater of World War II; in the frozen mountains of Korea;  
9 through the jungles of Vietnam; in the deserts of Operation Desert Storm; amid the  
10 complex battlefields of Somalia, Bosnia, and Kosovo; across the harsh terrains of  
11 Iraq and Afghanistan; and in the ongoing Global War on Terror. In each of these  
12 conflicts, Guam's servicemembers have demonstrated extraordinary valor, earning  
13 numerous Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Distinguished Service Crosses, Navy Crosses,  
14 Distinguished Flying Crosses, Purple Hearts, and other distinguished honors for their  
15 courage and sacrifice in combat.

16         The human cost of this service is etched deeply in our community's heart.  
17 Hundreds of Guam's sons and daughters have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense  
18 of freedom, while thousands more bear the physical and invisible wounds of war.  
19 Our veterans have endured grievous combat injuries, post-traumatic stress, and the  
20 lasting impacts of toxic exposure. Their families have shouldered the  
21 weight of their absence during multiple deployments, celebrated holidays through  
22 video calls from distant bases, and in too many cases, received the solemn visit of a  
23 military casualty officer bearing news that forever changed their lives.

24         *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that military service from Guam often  
25 spans generations within families, creating a legacy of sacrifice that touches every  
26 village and nearly every family on our island. Mothers have seen their children  
27 deploy to the same conflict zones where their spouses once served. Children have

1 grown up touching the names of parents and grandparents etched on memorial walls.  
2 Gold Star Families have transformed their grief into service, supporting other  
3 military families and ensuring their loved ones' sacrifices are never forgotten.

4 The month of November holds profound significance in military history,  
5 marked by the armistice that ended World War I on the eleventh hour of the eleventh  
6 day of the eleventh month in 1918. While Veterans Day stands as the centerpiece of  
7 this month of remembrance, our gratitude and recognition of veterans' service cannot  
8 be confined to a single day. The sacrifices of our veterans, their families, and  
9 particularly our Gold Star families deserve sustained recognition and honor  
10 throughout the month and beyond.

11 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* acknowledges that our island's relationship with  
12 military service was forever shaped by the experiences of World War II, when the  
13 people of Guam demonstrated extraordinary courage and loyalty during enemy  
14 occupation. The valiant service of *CHamoru* scouts, the Guam Combat Patrol, and  
15 the Guam Militia alongside American forces during liberation exemplified the  
16 unbreakable bond between Guam and the United States. This spirit of service  
17 continues today, with Guam consistently maintaining one of the highest per capita  
18 rates of military service in the nation.

19 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that the contributions of Guam's veterans  
20 extend far beyond their years in uniform. Upon returning to civilian life, these men  
21 and women have consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership in our  
22 community, serving as elected officials, educators, business leaders, and mentors to  
23 future generations. Their commitment to public service remains unwavering,  
24 enriching our island through their continued dedication to civic engagement and  
25 community improvement.

1           *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* acknowledges the exceptional service of veterans from  
2 each branch of the Armed Forces and National Guard components who have called  
3 Guam home:

4           The Guam Army National Guard, whose citizen-soldiers have served with  
5 distinction both in defending our island and responding to natural disasters since its  
6 establishment in 1981, demonstrating the unique dual commitment to both our local  
7 community and national defense while preserving *CHamoru* values of service and  
8 community support:

9           The Guam Air National Guard, whose citizen-airmen have protected our skies  
10 and provided crucial strategic airlift capabilities since 1971 through the 254th Air  
11 Base Group, exemplifying the perfect blend of civilian contribution and military  
12 readiness that defines the National Guard ethos;

13           The United States Army, whose soldiers from Guam have demonstrated  
14 exceptional courage and determination in ground combat operations worldwide,  
15 upholding the highest traditions of military service while bringing distinct *CHamoru*  
16 values of strength and resilience to their units;

17           The United States Navy, whose sailors from Guam have maintained our proud  
18 maritime heritage, serving with distinction on vessels throughout the world's oceans,  
19 their service reflecting our island's deep connection to the sea;

20           The United States Air Force, whose airmen from Guam have excelled in  
21 protecting our skies and projecting air power globally, their service building upon  
22 the strategic importance of Guam's location in the Pacific;

23           The United States Marine Corps, whose Marines from Guam have upheld the  
24 highest standards of combat excellence and dedication, their fierce fighting spirit  
25 echoing the warrior ethos of our ancestors;

1           The United States Coast Guard, whose guardians from Guam have steadfastly  
2 protected our maritime interests and preserved lives at sea, their service particularly  
3 meaningful to our island community;

4           The United States Space Force, whose guardians from Guam now extend our  
5 island's legacy of service into the newest domain of military operations, representing  
6 our commitment to defending national interests in space.

7           *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further acknowledges the profound sacrifices of  
8 military families, particularly:

9           Military spouses, who maintain households and raise families during  
10 deployments, their strength and resilience enabling the service of their loved ones  
11 while preserving our cultural traditions;

12           Military children, who demonstrate remarkable adaptability and courage in  
13 facing frequent moves and parental separations, their experiences enriching our  
14 island's cultural diversity;

15           Gold Star Families, who have made the ultimate sacrifice, their loss serving  
16 as a permanent reminder of the cost of freedom and the depth of service from our  
17 island community.

18           The profound impact of military service on our island community cannot be  
19 adequately recognized in a single day of remembrance. A month of recognition more  
20 appropriately reflects the lifetime of service given by our veterans, the perpetual  
21 sacrifice of their families, the enduring impact of their contributions to both our  
22 island and our nation, and affords our community the time and opportunity to engage  
23 appropriately thereto.

24           **Section 2.** A new § 1041 is hereby *added* to Chapter 10, Title 1, Guam Code  
25 Annotated, to read:

26           **“§ 1041. Veterans Service Recognition Month.**

1           (a) The month of November is designated as 'Veterans Service  
2 Recognition Month' in Guam.

3           (b) Purpose. Veterans Service Recognition Month is established to  
4 honor the profound legacy of military service that defines our island  
5 community. This month-long observance shall serve to:

6                   (1) Recognize and honor the service and sacrifices of veterans  
7 from all branches of the Armed Forces;

8                   (2) Celebrate the unique cultural heritage of military service  
9 from Guam;

10                  (3) Acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of military  
11 families;

12                  (4) Preserve and share the stories of veteran service members;

13                  (5) Promote understanding between military and civilian  
14 communities;

15                  (6) Support programs that assist veterans and their families;

16                  (7) Encourage youth engagement with veteran communities;

17                  (8) Foster appreciation for military service and sacrifice;

18                  (9) Recognize the dual-mission nature of our National Guard  
19 members who serve both our island and our nation, responding to local  
20 emergencies while maintaining readiness for federal military service.

21           (c) Program Requirements. During Veterans Service Recognition  
22 Month, the following programs and activities shall be conducted:

23                   (1) Educational Programs in Schools:

24                           (A) Veterans shall be invited to share their experiences  
25 with students;

26                           (B) Curriculum shall include lessons about Guam's  
27 military history;

1 (C) Student projects shall focus on veteran  
2 contributions to our community.

3 (2) Cultural Preservation:

4 (A) Documentation of veteran oral histories;

5 (B) Exhibitions of military artifacts and memorabilia;

6 (C) Recognition of *CHamoru* military traditions.

7 (3) Community Engagement:

8 (A) Veterans appreciation events in each village;

9 (B) Military family recognition ceremonies;

10 (C) Gold Star Family memorial services.

11 (4) Support Services:

12 (A) Veterans benefits awareness programs;

13 (B) Military family support workshops;

14 (C) Veteran employment and education fairs.

15 (5) National Guard Recognition:

16 (A) Special recognition of National Guard units'  
17 response to natural disasters and local emergencies;

18 (B) Documentation of the history and development of  
19 Guam's National Guard components;

20 (C) Educational programs highlighting the unique dual  
21 state-federal mission of the National Guard;

22 (D) Recognition of employers who support National  
23 Guard members' service commitments.

24 (d) Implementation Responsibilities:

25 (1) The Governor shall:

26 (A) Issue an annual proclamation for Veterans Service  
27 Recognition Month;



1 (B) Direct executive agencies to support month-long  
2 observances;

3 (C) Ensure adequate resources for program  
4 implementation.

5 (2) The Government of Guam instrumentality so established  
6 to service the Veteran Community on Guam shall:

7 (A) Coordinate month-long activities;

8 (B) Collaborate with military and veteran  
9 organizations;

10 (C) Monitor program effectiveness.

11 (3) The Department of *CHamoru* Affairs shall:

12 (A) Integrate cultural elements into observances;

13 (B) Document veteran contributions to *CHamoru*  
14 heritage;

15 (C) Preserve veteran stories and artifacts.

16 (4) The Guam Department of Education shall:

17 (A) Develop curriculum materials;

18 (B) Coordinate school-based activities;

19 (C) Facilitate veteran-student interactions.

20 (5) The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard shall:

21 (A) Coordinate National Guard participation in  
22 Veterans Service Recognition Month activities;

23 (B) Facilitate public education about the National  
24 Guard's dual mission;

25 (C) Support veteran outreach programs through  
26 National Guard facilities and resources.

1           (e) Funding. The implementation of Veterans Service Recognition  
2 Month programs shall be subject to the availability of funds appropriated by I  
3 *Liheslaturan Guåhan.*

4           (f) Annual Report. The Government of Guam instrumentality so  
5 established to service the Veteran Community on Guam shall report to I  
6 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* by January 31 of each year detailing the activities,  
7 participation, and impact of Veterans Service Recognition Month programs.”

8           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
9 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not  
10 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
11 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
12 severable.

13           **Section 4. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon enactment.