

**I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN  
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
158-38 (LS)	Tina Rose Muña-Barnes Jesse A. Lujan Christopher M. Dueñas	Relative to recognizing and commending Retired Colonel Gabriel Vincent Cruz for his distinguished career of more than thirty-six years of dedicated service to the people of Guam through the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, and congratulating him upon the occasion of his retirement.	3/23/26 11:59 a.m.	3/30/26 10:00 a.m.						

***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN***  
**2026 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 158-38 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña-Barnes  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Christopher M. Dueñas

**Relative to recognizing and commending Retired Colonel Gabriel Vincent Cruz for his distinguished career of more than thirty-six years of dedicated service to the people of Guam through the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, and congratulating him upon the occasion of his retirement.**

1           **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN***  
2 ***GUÁHAN*:**

3           **WHEREAS**, Gabriel Vincent Cruz was born on February 25, 1962, and raised  
4 in the village of Talofofu, Guam, the son of Benny Mendiola Cruz, a former firefighter  
5 with the Guam Fire Department from 1957 to 1972 and later a Customs Officer and  
6 Canine Handler with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency from 1972 to 1984,  
7 and Rosa Quitugua Cruz; and

8           **WHEREAS**, Colonel Cruz is the devoted husband of Julieta Augustin Cruz, and  
9 the proud father of Marv Augustin and Nicolas Cruz; and

10           **WHEREAS**, prior to his career in government service, Colonel Cruz gained  
11 valuable work experience in the private sector with Ben Franklin Department

1 Store from January 1980 to April 1981, Culligan from April 1981 to July 1983,  
2 and Continental Air Micronesia from September 1983 to July 1989; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in July 1989, Colonel Cruz began his long and distinguished career  
4 with the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency, where he faithfully served the people  
5 of Guam for more than thirty-six (36) years and seven (7) months, retiring in March  
6 2026; and

7 **WHEREAS**, throughout his tenure, Colonel Cruz served in numerous critical  
8 assignments, including the Inspection and Control Division (ICD), the Special  
9 Enforcement Division (SED), the Contraband Enforcement Team, and the Drug  
10 Detector Dog Unit (DDDU), where his leadership and expertise strengthened Guam's  
11 border protection and enforcement capabilities; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 1992, Colonel Cruz attended specialized K-9 training in  
13 Canberra, Australia, where he developed expertise in narcotics detection and canine  
14 operations that would significantly enhance Guam's drug interdiction efforts; and

15 **WHEREAS**, his dedication and professionalism resulted in his appointment  
16 as Officer in Charge of the Drug Detector Dog Unit in December 1996, followed by  
17 his promotion to Lieutenant and appointment as DDDU Supervisor in August 2000,  
18 where he mentored officers and handlers and strengthened the unit's operational  
19 effectiveness; and

20 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Colonel Cruz held numerous supervisory  
21 and leadership roles, including Midnight Shift Supervisor at the Airport, Operations  
22 Supervisor for the Special Enforcement Division, Supervisor of the Drug Detector Dog  
23 Unit, Acting Assistant Chief of the Special Enforcement Division, and Airport and Air  
24 Cargo Supervisor, ensuring the safety and security of Guam's ports of entry; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Cruz distinguished himself through exemplary service and  
26 professional excellence, earning numerous accolades including Officer of the Year in  
27 1994 and 1997, Handler of the Year in 1993, 1994, and 1996, Most Narcotic Seizures

1 in 1993, 1995, and 1996, Supervisor of the Year in 2016, being named a MagPro  
2 Supervisor of the Year Nominee in 2016;and

3 **WHEREAS**, he successfully managed the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice  
4 Assistance Grant for more than twenty (20) years, securing millions of dollars in federal  
5 funding that strengthened enforcement programs and enhanced the capabilities of the  
6 Drug Detector Dog Unit and other critical operations and under his leadership, the  
7 DDDU won the agency's Unit of the Year in 2018 and was the agency nomination for  
8 the 2018 MagPro Unit award.; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Cruz demonstrated extraordinary personal dedication to  
10 his unit, often contributing his own personal funds for operational needs such as training  
11 supplies, canine equipment, and even purchasing new tires for an essential canine  
12 vehicle to ensure continued operational readiness; and

13 **WHEREAS**, beyond his professional duties, Colonel Cruz generously  
14 volunteered hundreds of hours to community initiatives including Island Beautification  
15 projects, Red Cross fundraisers, Guam Special Olympics, Mannegon Memorial Torch  
16 Run, school presentations, support for the Guam Animal Shelter, Sanctuary  
17 Incorporated, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, reflecting his deep commitment to the  
18 community he served; and

19 **WHEREAS**, exemplifying compassion and solidarity with fellow government  
20 employees, Colonel Cruz donated over 4,000 hours of sick leave throughout his career  
21 to colleagues facing life events ranging from childbirth to serious illnesses such as  
22 cancer; and

23 **WHEREAS**, through his leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to  
24 public service, Colonel Cruz has left a lasting legacy within the Guam Customs and  
25 Quarantine Agency and has made a meaningful impact on the safety and well-being of  
26 the people of Guam; now therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
28 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend Retired Colonel Gabriel Vincent  
29 Cruz for his outstanding career of more than thirty-six years of dedicated service to the

1 Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and extend its warmest congratulations and best  
2 wishes upon his well-earned retirement; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
4 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be transmitted to Retired Colonel Gabriel  
5 Vincent Cruz and to the leadership of the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency and  
6 to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MARCH 2026.**

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**Frank F. Blas, Jr.**  
**Speaker**

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**Sabrina Salas Matanane**  
**Legislative Secretary**