

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
95-38 (COR)	Vincent A.V. Borja Frank F. Blas, Jr. Telo T. Taitague Jesse A. Lujan Sabrina Salas Matanane Christopher M. Dueñas Joe S. San Agustín William A. Parkinson V. Anthony Ada Therese M. Terfaje Shelly V. Calvo	Relative to posthumously recognizing †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willits Swanson for his service and leadership to the United States Army and our island community; and commemorating the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions.	9/10/25 4:10 p.m.	9/19/25	9/18/25 2:29 p.m. 10/7/25 12:41 a.m.					

Resolution No. 95-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Vincent A.V. Borja
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Telo T. Taitague
Jesse A. Lujan
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Christopher M. Dueñas
Joe S. San Agustín
William A. Parkinson
V. Anthony Ada
Therese M. Terlaje
Shelly V. Calvo

Chris Barnett
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez



Relative to posthumously recognizing †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willits Swanson for his service and leadership to the United States Army and our island community; and commemorating the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions.

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

WHEREAS, †David Willits Swanson (aka "Dave", "Pop" or "Swanee") was born and grew up in Galesburg, Illinois, on November 29, 1936, a second-generation Swede and the second son of Evar and Sara Swanson, whose family ran a grocery store in Galesburg; and

WHEREAS, †David was married to †Sharon Ruth Swanson and was father to four children: Shawn Marie Bogen, Stephen Evar Swanson, David Erik Swanson, and †Susannah Swanson. He was also a grandfather to ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on August 11, 2025, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, †David Willits Swanson was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, having completed his studies as part of the Class of 1958, where he earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. His military career included multiple tours in Vietnam, notably with the 101st Airborne Division; a 13-month deployment in Korea with the First Air Cavalry Division; two years at Fort Benning, Georgia; and a tour serving as an aide to a two-star general; and

WHEREAS, †Second Lieutenant Swanson's heroic service and combat wounds sustained in Vietnam reflect his exceptional courage and dedication as an infantryman, strengthening our national defense and leaving a lasting mark on American history. He was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, seven Air Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, and numerous campaign and service honors. He further distinguished himself by earning the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, his most prized, and the Senior Parachutist Badge; and

WHEREAS, †Captain Swanson's extraordinary heroism during the Vietnam War saved many lives and set a powerful example of leadership and courage. In 1966, while commanding Alpha Company, First Battalion, Seventh Cavalry in the An Lao Valley, he led his troops through intense combat, maneuvering under fire to flush out enemy forces. After sustaining heavy contact, he rejoined his men on the ground, refusing evacuation despite grave injuries, including the loss of two fingers and a head wound from a bullet that pierced his helmet. He administered first aid to his wounded First Sergeant, called in supporting fire, and held his position until the situation was stabilized. His bullet-ridden helmet remains a solemn symbol of sacrifice, resilience, and the enduring cost of service; and

WHEREAS, †LTC (Ret.) David Willits Swanson earned a Master of Arts in Speech Communications and Human Relations from the University of Kansas, and held key assignments at staff colleges, headquarters, and bases, including the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He served as Assistant Professor of Military Science and later as Professor of Military Science (PMS) at the University of Hawaii ROTC. He was then selected as the founding PMS for the University of Guam Army ROTC program. †LTC (Ret.) Swanson concluded his distinguished military career at Fort Sheridan, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, through his personal and professional dedication, †LTC (Ret.) Swanson played a pivotal role in founding and leading the first senior division Army ROTC unit at the University of Guam (UOG) on March 1, 1979. Under his leadership, the program launched its first semester in Fall 1980 at Dean's Circle. From 1979 to 1983, †LTC (Ret.) Swanson and his cadre were trailblazers, laying the groundwork for a thriving ROTC program that would go on to commission officers from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) into active duty, the Army Reserves, and the Guam Army National Guard. He fostered a culture of academic and military excellence, shaping cadets with a strong warrior ethos. Though his tenure ended in 1983, his impact extended to ROTC Year Groups 1982 through 1985. As noted in the Congressional Record (Vol. 129, Nov. 18, 1983), Congressman Antonio B. Won Pat praised †LTC Swanson for establishing the enduring quality and sense of duty that continues to define the program; and

WHEREAS, through his dynamic leadership and commitment to developing future military leaders, †LTC (Ret.) Swanson played a pivotal role in commissioning the first class of Military Science IV cadets from the UOG Army ROTC program in May 1982, coinciding with the University's Thirtieth Commencement at Orote Point Theater, Naval Station. He also coordinated with the University to invite the Honorable Harry N. Walters, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, to deliver the commencement address and present commissions. His visionary guidance led the young program to national acclaim, including the prestigious "Warrior of the Pacific Award" in 1984, recognizing UOG's ROTC as the top unit in the country. His legacy brought lasting military distinction to the people of Guam and the CNMI; and

WHEREAS, †LTC (Ret.) David Willits Swanson was a pioneer whose visionary leadership established the philosophical and institutional foundation for Guam's Army ROTC Program, nurturing generations of senior Army leaders, including General Officers. By the time of his passing, the 46-year-old program had commissioned over 640 Second Lieutenants since 1982, and his impact extended beyond the military, inspiring civilian leaders to serve their communities with values rooted in family, service, and teamwork. He opened doors to greater military responsibility, improved lives, and fostered camaraderie that enriched Guam's community and enhanced its quality of life; and

WHEREAS, †LTC (Ret.) Swanson, through his leadership and mentorship, fostered a positive and inspiring environment that shaped future leaders for lifelong service to our nation. He deeply understood Guam's patriotic spirit and the value of family, often meeting with cadets' families to encourage and reassure them; and

WHEREAS, he lived with passion and purpose, an avid reader and historian, jazz enthusiast, collector of American memorabilia, golfer, and devoted friend and family man. His commitment to excellence and lifelong learning was evident in his active role with the Rotary Club and his embrace of being both a "soldier for life" and "student for life"; and

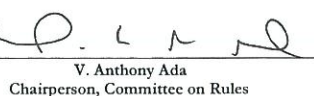
WHEREAS, we honor †LTC (Ret.) Swanson for his extraordinary service to our country, and especially to Guam and the CNMI. He was a larger-than-life Soldier whose dedication to duty, honor, and country left a lasting impact. His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched and the leaders he inspired. As taps sound in farewell, we salute a faithful servant whose memory will forever be a blessing, now therefore, be it

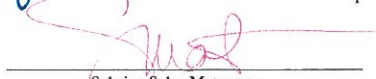
RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willits Swanson for his service and leadership to the United States Army and our island community; and commemorate the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of Army †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willits Swanson; to Dr. Anita Borja-Enriquez, President, University of Guam; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hagan Guåhan*.

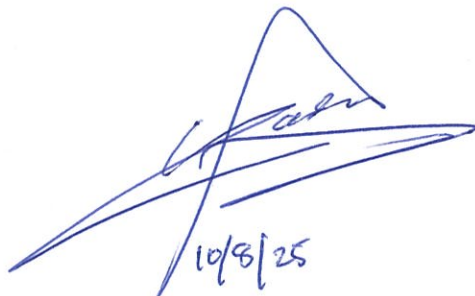
DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 18TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.


Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker


V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules


Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary



A stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, sweeping 'C' shape that loops around the text below.

10/8/25

08:35

Caden Porcator

FJU

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

Resolution No. 95-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Vincent A.V. Borja
Frank F. Blas Jr.
Telo T. Taitague
Jesse A. Lujan
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Chris Dueñas
Joe San Agustin
William A. Parkinson
V. Anthony Ada
Therese Terlaje
Shelly V. Calvo
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Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez

Relative to posthumously recognizing †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willis Swanson for his service and leadership to the United States Army and our island community; and commemorating the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions.

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

3 **WHEREAS, †David Willits Swanson (aka “Dave”, “Pop” or “Swanee”) was**
4 **born and grew up in Galesburg, Illinois, on November 29, 1936, a second-generation**
5 **Swede and the second son of Evar and Sara Swanson, whose family ran a grocery store**
6 **in Galesburg; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, †David was married to †Sharon Ruth Swanson and was father to
2 four children: Shawn Marie Bogen, Stephen Evar Swanson, David Erik Swanson, and
3 †Susannah Swanson. He was also a grandfather to ten grandchildren and four great-
4 grandchildren. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on August 11, 2025,
5 at the age of 88; and

6 **WHEREAS**, †David Willits Swanson was a graduate of the United States
7 Military Academy at West Point, having completed his studies as part of the Class of
8 1958, where he earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. His
9 military career included multiple tours in Vietnam, notably with the 101st Airborne
10 Division; a 13-month deployment in Korea with the First Air Cavalry Division; two
11 years at Fort Benning, Georgia; and a tour serving as an aide to a two-star general; and

12 **WHEREAS**, †Second Lieutenant Swanson's heroic service and combat wounds
13 sustained in Vietnam reflect his exceptional courage and dedication as an infantryman,
14 strengthening our national defense and leaving a lasting mark on American history. He
15 was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, seven Air Medals, three
16 Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, and numerous
17 campaign and service honors. He further distinguished himself by earning the Ranger
18 Tab, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, his most prized, and the
19 Senior Parachutist Badge; and

20 **WHEREAS**, †Captain Swanson's extraordinary heroism during the Vietnam
21 War saved many lives and set a powerful example of leadership and courage. In 1966,
22 while commanding Alpha Company, First Battalion, Seventh Cavalry in the An Lao
23 Valley, he led his troops through intense combat, maneuvering under fire to flush out
24 enemy forces. After sustaining heavy contact, he rejoined his men on the ground,
25 refusing evacuation despite grave injuries, including the loss of two fingers and a head
26 wound from a bullet that pierced his helmet. He administered first aid to his wounded
27 First Sergeant, called in supporting fire, and held his position until the situation was

1 stabilized. His bullet-ridden helmet remains a solemn symbol of sacrifice, resilience,
2 and the enduring cost of service; and

3 **WHEREAS,** †LTC (Ret.) David Willits Swanson earned a Master of Arts in
4 Speech Communications and Human Relations from the University of Kansas, and held
5 key assignments at staff colleges, headquarters, and bases, including the Command and
6 General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He served as Assistant Professor
7 of Military Science and later as Professor of Military Science (PMS) at the University
8 of Hawaii ROTC. He was then selected as the founding PMS for the University of Guam
9 Army ROTC program. †LTC (Ret.) Swanson concluded his distinguished military
10 career at Fort Sheridan, Illinois; and

11 **WHEREAS,** through his personal and professional dedication, †LTC (Ret.)
12 Swanson played a pivotal role in founding and leading the first senior division Army
13 ROTC unit at the University of Guam (UOG) on March 1, 1979. Under his leadership,
14 the program launched its first semester in Fall 1980 at Dean's Circle. From 1979 to
15 1983, †LTC (Ret.) Swanson and his cadre were trailblazers, laying the groundwork for
16 a thriving ROTC program that would go on to commission officers from Guam and the
17 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) into active duty, the Army
18 Reserves, and the Guam Army National Guard. He fostered a culture of academic and
19 military excellence, shaping cadets with a strong warrior ethos. Though his tenure ended
20 in 1983, his impact extended to ROTC Year Groups 1982 through 1985. As noted in
21 the Congressional Record (Vol. 129, Nov. 18, 1983), Congressman Antonio B. Won
22 Pat praised †LTC Swanson for establishing the enduring quality and sense of duty that
23 continues to define the program; and

24 **WHEREAS,** through his dynamic leadership and commitment to developing
25 future military leaders, †LTC (Ret.) Swanson played a pivotal role in commissioning
26 the first class of Military Science IV cadets from the UOG Army ROTC program in
27 May 1982, coinciding with the University's Thirtieth Commencement at Orote Point

1 Theater, Naval Station. He also coordinated with the University to invite the Honorable
2 Harry N. Walters, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs,
3 to deliver the commencement address and present commissions. His visionary guidance
4 led the young program to national acclaim, including the prestigious “Warrior of the
5 Pacific Award” in 1984, recognizing UOG’s ROTC as the top unit in the country. His
6 legacy brought lasting military distinction to the people of Guam and the CNMI; and

7 **WHEREAS,** †LTC (Ret.) David Willits Swanson was a pioneer whose visionary
8 leadership established the philosophical and institutional foundation for Guam’s Army
9 ROTC Program, nurturing generations of senior Army leaders, including General
10 Officers. By the time of his passing, the 46-year-old program had commissioned over
11 640 Second Lieutenants since 1982, and his impact extended beyond the military,
12 inspiring civilian leaders to serve their communities with values rooted in family,
13 service, and teamwork. He opened doors to greater military responsibility, improved
14 lives, and fostered camaraderie that enriched Guam’s community and enhanced its
15 quality of life; and

16 **WHEREAS,** †LTC (Ret.) Swanson, through his leadership and mentorship,
17 fostered a positive and inspiring environment that shaped future leaders for lifelong
18 service to our nation. He deeply understood Guam’s patriotic spirit and the value of
19 family, often meeting with cadets’ families to encourage and reassure them; and

20 **WHEREAS,** he lived with passion and purpose, an avid reader and historian,
21 jazz enthusiast, collector of American memorabilia, golfer, and devoted friend and
22 family man. His commitment to excellence and lifelong learning was evident in his
23 active role with the Rotary Club and his embrace of being both a “soldier for life” and
24 “student for life.”; and

25 **WHEREAS,** we honor †LTC (Ret.) Swanson for his extraordinary service to our
26 country, and especially to Guam and the CNMI. He was a larger-than-life Soldier whose
27 dedication to duty, honor, and country left a lasting impact. His legacy lives on in the

1 many lives he touched and the leaders he inspired. As taps sound in farewell, we salute
2 a faithful servant whose memory will forever be a blessing; now therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
5 of Guam, recognize †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willis Swanson for his service
6 and leadership to the United States Army and our island community; and commemorate
7 the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
9 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
10 the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of Army †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)
11 David Willis Swanson David Willits Swanson; to Dr. Anita Borja-Enriquez, President,
12 University of Guam; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
13 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 18TH DAY
OF SEPTEMBER 2025.**



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker



V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary



COMMITTEE ON RULES

VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA, CHAIRPERSON

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Resolution No. 95-38 (COR) – Vincent A.V. Borja, Frank F. Blas Jr., Telo T. Taitague, Jesse A. Lujan, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Chris Dueñas, Joe San Agustin, William A. Parkinson, V. Anthony Ada, Therese Terlaje, Shelly V. Calvo– “Relative to posthumously recognizing †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willis Swanson for his service and leadership to the United States Army and our island community; and commemorating the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions.”

	INITIAL	DATE	TO ADOPT	TO NOT ADOPT	TO ABSTAIN
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Chairperson	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas Vice Chairperson	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. Member	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Legislative Secretary Sabrina Salas Matanane Member	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja Member	<i>VAB</i>	09/18/25	✓		
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Member					
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Member	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan Member	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Senator Telo T. Taitague Member	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes Minority Member					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin Minority Member	E-VOTE	09/18/25	✓		
For Sponsor's Office Use Only					
Sponsor Signature:					
Staff Contact Person:					
For COR/Clerk's Office Use Only					
<u>9</u> Certified _____ Returned _____					
Name: Elijah Untalan					
Date: 9/18/25 2:29 p.m.					
Notes:					

670
11/11/22 3:09 PM
NOTE RECORDED - 15670 - JC



Office of Senator

Vincent A. V. Borja

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

DNA BUILDING
SUITE 502
238 ARCHBISHOP FLORES ST.
HAGÁTNA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-969-8423

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, LIBRARIES
AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders, Media
From: Senator Vincent A.V. Borja
Chairperson, Committee on Education, Libraries, and Public Broadcasting

Re: PRESENTATION NOTICE for Resolution No. 95-38 (COR)

Hafa Adai,

Please be advised that on **Friday, September 19, 2025**, Senator Vincent A.V. Borja will transmit **Resolution No. 95-38 (COR)**, “**Relative to posthumously recognizing †Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Willis Swanson for his service and leadership to the United States Army and our island community, and commemorating the profound impact he made on individuals and institutions,**” to the family of **Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) David Wills Swanson** in preparation for his funeral on **September 20, 2025, in Galesburg, Illinois**. We thank him for his service to the people of Guam.

Should you wish to send your condolences or regards, kindly send them to the Office of Senator Vincent A.V. Borja or contact@senatorvinceborja.com.

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