

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
86-38 (LS)	Jesse A. Lujan V. Anthony Ada Tina Rosa Muña Barnes Chris Barnett Frank F. Blas, Jr. Vincent A.V. Borja Shelly V. Calvo Christopher M. Dueñas Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Sabrina Salas Matanane William A. Parkinson Sabina Flores Perez Joe S. San Agustin Telo T. Taitague Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to posthumously commemorating the life and legacy of †Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri, CHamoru World War II survivor and tireless advocate for Guam's war survivors and war claims.	8/15/25 10:43 a.m.	8/18/25						

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

Resolution No. 86-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

Jesse A. Lujan 
V. Anthony Ada 
Tina Rose Muña Barnes 
D. Christopher Barnett 
Frank F. Blas Jr. 
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Sabrina Salas Matanane 
William A. Parkinson 
Sabina F. Perez 
Joe S. San Agustin 
Telo T. Taitague 
Therese M. Terlaje 

**Relative to posthumously commemorating the life and legacy
of †Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri, CHamoru World War II
survivor and tireless advocate for Guam's war survivors and
war claims.**

- 1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**
3 **WHEREAS, †Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri was born on June 14, 1931, in**
4 **Hagåt, Guam, to †Beatrice Perez Ploke and †John F. Ploke and was a cherished sister**
5 **to: †Daniel, †Pauline, †Genevieve and †John; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, she entered into a loving and devoted marriage with the late
2 Honorable †Senator Rafael Camacho Sgambelluri, with whom she was blessed to raise
3 four (4) children: Darleen, †Jennifer, Pamela, and Ralph; through them, was further
4 blessed with the joy of numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a proud graduate of the George Washington High School Class of
6 1950, she achieved this milestone only six (6) years after the *Battle of Guam*, a testament
7 to her perseverance and determination to move forward in the shadow of the Pacific
8 War in World War II; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as recounted in her own testimony, she vividly remembered that on
10 December 8, 1941, while eating breakfast with her family, she heard planes overhead,
11 learned Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor and realized Guam was under attack; and

12 **WHEREAS**, though warned to leave Guam before the Japanese invasion, her
13 mother refused to abandon her aging parents, leading the family to shelter at their ranch
14 in Adacao, Mangilao, where her father hid in the jungle; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in December 1941, her father surrendered while holding her hand
16 and was taken as a prisoner of war to Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp in Osaka, Japan,
17 where he provided steadfast medical care to fellow prisoners and maintained a solemn
18 and meticulous journal recording the dates when prisoners arrived and when they
19 perished, bearing witness to the human cost of war until 1945; and

20 **WHEREAS**, during the Japanese occupation, her mother and her siblings were
21 displaced from their home, forced to live in abandoned houses without basic comforts,
22 endured hunger, forced labor and suffered cruel treatment from occupiers, including
23 humiliation and physical abuse by a Japanese teacher; and

24 **WHEREAS**, she recalled in her Guam Liberation testimony that the hunger was
25 “almost unbearable,” yet she endured through prayer, her mother’s strength and the
26 quiet resilience of the CHamoru people; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in 1944, she and her family were forcibly marched to the
28 *Mañenggon* Concentration Camp, where thousands of CHamorus suffered from

1 malnutrition, disease and harsh conditions; in later years, she shared these memories at
2 community events such as the 2012 Manenggon Memorial Service, helping to educate
3 the public about the suffering and courage of Guam’s wartime survivors; and

4 **WHEREAS**, she was a tireless advocate for Guam’s war claims, testifying
5 before legislative bodies and urging the United States to fulfill its obligations to
6 CHamoru survivors; in 2021, she was honored by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* through
7 Resolution No. 197-36 (LS) for her “*tireless work as an advocate for Guåhan’s war*
8 *claims and recognizing her life as a CHamoru survivor of World War II*”; and

9 **WHEREAS**, her public presence included the honor of serving as Grand Marshal
10 of Guam’s Liberation Day Parade, as well as being the first civilian in history to lay a
11 wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 2018 to commemorate the Liberation of
12 Guam and the Mariånas; and

13 **WHEREAS**, her advocacy did not end with her personal appearances in
14 Washington, D.C.; even after returning home, she continued to educate lawmakers and
15 cabinet members through persistent and heartfelt letters, ensuring that the voices of
16 Guam’s war survivors remained present in the halls of power; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in August 2023, she presented testimony during a U.S.
18 Congressional field hearing on Guam, tying her personal history to the ongoing
19 importance of cultural preservation, recognition of historical injustices and the
20 resilience of the CHamoru people; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Irene’s home telephone became a lifeline for war survivors across
22 Guam, a number well known for compassion and assistance that local radio hosts would
23 regularly share it on air, confident she would answer the call of those in need; and

24 **WHEREAS**, she waged and prevailed in repeated battles against illness,
25 including multiple encounters with cancer, meeting each trial with an indomitable spirit,
26 unyielding strength and an unwavering will to live; and

27 **WHEREAS**, she often expressed that her deepest and most enduring wish was
28 that her own story and the stories of all CHamorus who suffered and died during World

1 War II would never be buried with the past but instead be preserved for future
2 generations as a testament to courage, sacrifice, and the enduring CHamoru spirit; and

3 **WHEREAS**, her legacy is one of courage, compassion, and unyielding
4 dedication to preserving the history of her people and ensuring future generations
5 understand the sacrifices made for Guam’s freedom; now therefore, be it

6 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
7 behalf of the people of Guam, honors and commends Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri for
8 her extraordinary courage, resilience, and lifelong dedication to education and the
9 recognition of CHamoru war survivors; and be it further

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
11 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of
12 †Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
13 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MONTH 2025.

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary