

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

VOTING RECORD

Bill No. 92-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs; and amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building July 31, 2025
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NAME	Yea	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada	✓					
Senator Chris Barnett	✓					
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.	✓					
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja	✓					
Senator Shelly V. Calvo	✓					
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao	✓					
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	✓					
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes					✓	✓
Senator William A. Parkinson	✓					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	✓					
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane	✓					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓					
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓					
Senator Therese M. Terlaje	✓					

TOTAL

14

0

Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

1

Absent

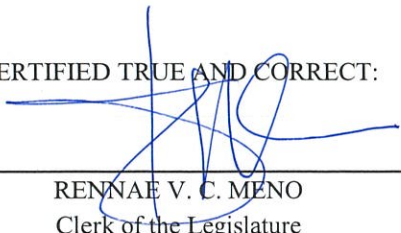
1

Excused

Yea

Nay

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



 RENNAE V. C. MENO
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

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

Bill No. 92-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs;
and amended on the Floor.

*

Introduced by:

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Christopher M. Dueñas
Vincent A. V. Borja
Telo T. Taitague
Chris Barnett
Shelly V. Calvo
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Joe S. San Agustin
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Therese M. Terlaje
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.

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

1 call to service with unwavering dedication and extraordinary valor. From the
2 beaches of Normandy to the mountains of Korea, from the jungles of Vietnam to the
3 deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, sons and daughters of Guam have served with
4 distinction in every major conflict since World War I. This legacy of service is
5 woven deeply into the fabric of our island's culture, where warrior traditions of
6 ancient *CHamoru* society find modern expression in military service to the United
7 States of America.

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

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

26 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that military service from Guam often
27 spans generations within families, creating a legacy of sacrifice that touches every

1 village and nearly every family on our island. Mothers have seen their children
2 deploy to the same conflict zones where their spouses once served. Children have
3 grown up touching the names of parents and grandparents etched on memorial walls.
4 Gold Star Families have transformed their grief into service, supporting other
5 military families and ensuring their loved ones' sacrifices are never forgotten.

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

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

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

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

24 (1) Educational Programs in Schools:

25 (A) Veterans may be invited to share their
26 experiences with students;

1 (B) Curriculum may include lessons about Guam's
2 military history;

3 (C) Student projects may focus on veteran contributions
4 to our community.

5 (2) Cultural Preservation:

6 (A) Documentation of veteran oral histories;

7 (B) Exhibitions of military artifacts and memorabilia;

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

9 (3) Community Engagement:

10 (A) Veterans appreciation events in each village;

11 (B) Military family recognition ceremonies;

12 (C) Gold Star Family memorial services.

13 (4) Support Services:

14 (A) Veterans benefits awareness programs;

15 (B) Military family support workshops;

16 (C) Veteran employment and education fairs.

17 (5) National Guard Recognition:

18 (A) Special recognition of National Guard units response
19 to natural disasters and local emergencies;

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

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

24 (D) Recognition of employers who support National
25 Guard members' service commitments.

26 (d) Implementation Responsibilities:

27 (1) The *I Magsa'håga/Magsa'låhi* shall:

1 (A) Issue an annual proclamation for Veterans Service
2 Recognition Month;

3 (B) Direct executive agencies to support month-long
4 observances;

5 (C) Ensure adequate resources for program
6 implementation.

7 (2) The Guam Office of Veterans Affairs (GOVA)
8 may:

9 (A) Coordinate month-long activities;

10 (B) Collaborate with the Guam Veterans
11 Commission and military and veteran organizations;

12 (C) Monitor program effectiveness.

13 (3) The Department of *CHamoru* Affairs may:

14 (A) Integrate cultural elements into observances;

15 (B) Document veteran contributions to *CHamoru*
16 heritage;

17 (C) Preserve veteran stories and artifacts.

18 (4) The Guam Department of Education may:

19 (A) Develop curriculum materials;

20 (B) Coordinate school-based activities;

21 (C) Facilitate veteran-student interactions.

22 (5) The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard
23 may:

24 (A) Coordinate National Guard participation in
25 Veterans Service Recognition Month activities;

26 (B) Facilitate public education about the
27 National Guard's dual mission;

1 (C) Support veteran outreach programs through
2 National Guard facilities and resources.

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

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

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

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