

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE 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
176-37 (LS)	Joe S. San Agustin Tina Rose Muña Barnes Amanda L. Shelton Roy A. B. Quinata Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas William A. Parkinson Therese M. Terlaje Chris Barnett Sabina Flores Perez Christopher M. Dueñas Telo T. Taitague Thomas J. Fisher Frank Blas, Jr. Joanne Brown Jesse A. Lujan	Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Honorable John Finoña Blas, Former Commissioner of the Municipality of <i>Yigo</i> , for his dedication to the island and the people of Guam, and commemorating his legacy of service; and further expressing condolences to his family on his passing, on behalf of the people of Guam.	8/18/23 9:32 a.m.	8/24/23 10:00 a.m.	8/18/23					

Resolution No. 176-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Joe S. San Agustín
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Amanda L. Shelton
Roy A. B. Quinata
Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas
William A. Parkinson
Therese M. Terlaje
Chris Barnett
Sabina Flores Perez
Christopher M. Dueñas
Telo T. Taitague
Thomas J. Fisher
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne Brown
Jesse A. Lujan



Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Honorable John Finoña Blas, Former Commissioner of the Municipality of Yigo, for his dedication to the island and the people of Guam, and commemorating his legacy of service; and further expressing condolences to his family on his passing, on behalf of the people of Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, in his life and legacy, the late Honorable John Finoña Blas, a native son of Guam, was born on January 31, 1963; and he is the son of the late retired U.S. Marshal Juan Guerrero (*Rahab Blas (Tigong)*) and the late Clotilde Finoña (*Isaght Blas*), and the third eldest child of ten (10) siblings; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas will forever live on in the hearts of all who have been blessed with his life, most especially his loving wife Catherine T. Castro, their five (5) children: Lucas, John Jr., Kenneth, J. Anthony and Jon Michael, and their four (4) grandchildren: Rai Jose, Cas Jose, Kali Jae and Elyssa Riley; and in his passing, he also leaves behind numerous relatives and friends who are eternally grateful for his unwavering determination to pursue support and progress for us all; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas was a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School Class of 1981; and he had pursued higher education, studying Public Administration at the University of Guam and Architectural Engineering Science and Criminal Justice Administration at the Guam Community College; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas began as a young musician performing with the Blas Brothers, a well-known local family band. In his 20's, John joined fellow musicians Edward Benevente, Michael Phillips, Joyleen Sablan Suba and Fred Bordallo and formed the musical group "CHAMORRO." John and the band "CHAMORRO" made history in the late 1980's as the first Guam musicians to record on compact discs (CDs). John played bass and was the lead male vocalist. Together with CHAMORRO, they won numerous awards and resolutions for their all Chamorro, all original, contemporary album. John was a true trail blazer on Guam, and he was also known for his amazing musical and instrumental talents. John had been a vocalist and bass guitarist for many decades and was known for his participation and contributions to the arts while performing with a band known as "Local Brew" and many other local musical groups, where he provided local and cultural music and entertainment for the people of Guam. He had also served as a music teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School, sharing his love of music as an instructor and teaching the ukulele, guitar, and bass guitar to students of all grades, as well as leading major productions for the school; and onstage, he was a performer who captured the hearts of all; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas' life of service embodies decades of dedication to the people of Guam. He was employed with the Guam Legislature, where he served in the Sixteenth (16th) through the Nineteenth (19th) Guam Legislatures; and in November 1988, at just twenty-five (25) years old and following in the footsteps of his late father, he was elected to serve as one of the island's youngest Commissioners (now Mayors); and he served the Municipality of Yigo from January 1989 to January 1993; and

WHEREAS, being an individual with governmental experience who had served as a Mayor and a Legislative Aide for the Guam Legislature, the Honorable John Finoña Blas was selected to serve as the Executive Director of the Mayors Council of Guam, and he served in that capacity from September 2001 until May 2008, where he focused on ensuring that the operations of the Council followed all Guam laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the Mayors Council of Guam; and

WHEREAS, to uphold strong support and leadership with emergencies and disasters, the Honorable John Finoña Blas was instrumental in increasing the Mayors Council's collaboration with the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense by ensuring that all preparedness, response, and recovery operations involved the Mayors and Vice Mayors at all levels, as well as ensuring that the Mayors Council was included in all of the on-island Homeland Security/FEMA Trainings, Workshops and Exercises; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas returned to the Guam Legislature where he served during the Twenty-second (22nd) through the Twenty-third (23rd) Guam Legislatures as Chief-of-Staff for then Vice Speaker Ted S. Nelson; and he continued in his public service to our community in the Twenty-fourth (24th) and Twenty-fifth (25th) Guam Legislatures working as a Legislative Committee Staff Member for former Senator Alberto "Tony" C. Lamorena V from January to September 2001; and

WHEREAS, not limiting himself to public service employment, the Honorable John Finoña Blas worked as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Guam Telephone Authority (GTA) where he was instrumental in supporting the efforts towards the company's privatization, such that GTA continues to this day to be successful in providing its services to the people of Guam; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas also served as the Executive Director of the Guam Election Commission (GEC) from May 2008 through February 2011, where he maintained the mission and operations of the GEC, to include serving as the Certifying Officer; ensuring compliance of financial reporting and website requirements; preparing the annual appropriations budget for the GEC; administering the implementation of Title 3, Guam Code Annotated (the Guam Election Commission Law), and all other federal election laws applicable to Guam; and he also led in establishing the mandates that were needed to provide for the proper stewardship at polling sites; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas' service to Guam's people also entails his work as a Senior Policy Analyst for Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes in the Thirty-second (32nd) and Thirty-third (33rd) Guam Legislatures; and he had also worked in Guam's tourism industry managing the operations of hotels; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas also served as a Veteran Advocate/Outreach Specialist of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program where he served on the case management team supporting individual and group counseling services, case management services, education, and other outreach goals of the WestCare Foundation and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable John Finoña Blas' life journey epitomizes the very heartbeat of an unsung hero, and his life of service to our community symbolizes the love and dedication he possessed for Guam's people; now therefore, be it

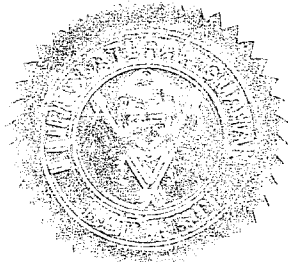
RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, posthumously recognize the Honorable John Finoña Blas, former Commissioner of the Municipality of Yigo, for his dedication to the island and the people of Guam, and commemorate his legacy of service; and express condolences to his family on his passing, on behalf of the people of Guam; and be it further


RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of the Honorable John Finoña Blas, and his wife Catherine T. Blas; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Mago'lagan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST 2023.


THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker


AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary




Michaela Celorio
8-28-23

I MINA'TRENTAISIIETTE NA I LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 176-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Joe S. San Agustin
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Amanda L. Shelton
Roy A.B. Quinata
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
William A. Parkinson
Therese M. Terlaje
Chris Barnett
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Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Honorable John Finoña Blas, Former Commissioner of the Municipality of *Yigo*, for his dedication to the island and the people of Guam, and commemorating his legacy of service; and further expressing condolences to his family on his passing, on behalf of the people of Guam.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, in his life and legacy, the late Honorable John Finoña Blas, a native
4 son of Guam, was born on January 31, 1963; and he is the son of the late retired U.S.
5 Marshal Juan Guerrero (*Robat*) Blas (*Tugong*) and the late Clotilde Finoña (*Englis*)
6 Blas, and the third eldest child of ten (10) siblings; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas will forever live on in the hearts
2 of all who have been blessed with his life, most especially his loving wife Catherine T.
3 Castro, their five (5) children: Lucas, John Jr., Kenneth, J. Anthony and Jon Michael,
4 and their four (4) grandchildren: Rai Jose, Cas Jose, Kali Jae and Elyssa Riley; and in
5 his passing, he also leaves behind numerous relatives and friends who are eternally
6 grateful for his unwavering determination to pursue support and progress for us all; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas was a graduate of John F. Kennedy
8 High School Class of 1981; and he had pursued higher education, studying Public
9 Administration at the University of Guam and Architectural Engineering Science and
10 Criminal Justice Administration at the Guam Community College; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas began as a young musician
12 performing with the Blas Brothers, a well-known local family band. In his 20's, John
13 joined fellow musicians Edward Benevente, Michael Phillips, Joyleen Sablan Suba and
14 Fred Bordallo and formed the musical group "CHAMORRO." John and the band
15 "CHAMORRO" made history in the late 1980's as the first Guam musicians to record
16 on compact discs (CDs). John played bass and was the lead male vocalist. Together
17 with CHAMORRO, they won numerous awards and resolutions for their all Chamorro,
18 all original, contemporary album. John was a true trail blazer on Guam, and he was also
19 known for his amazing musical and instrumental talents. John had been a vocalist and
20 bass guitarist for many decades and was known for his participation and contributions
21 to the arts while performing with a band known as "Local Brew" and many other local
22 musical groups, where he provided local and cultural music and entertainment for the
23 people of Guam. He had also served as a music teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel
24 Catholic School, sharing his love of music as an instructor and teaching the ukulele,
25 guitar, and bass guitar to students of all grades, as well as leading major productions for
26 the school; and onstage, he was a performer who captured the hearts of all; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas’ life of service embodies decades
2 of dedication to the people of Guam. He was employed with the Guam Legislature,
3 where he served in the Sixteenth (16th) through the Nineteenth (19th) Guam Legislatures;
4 and in November 1988, at just twenty-five (25) years old and following in the footsteps
5 of his late father, he was elected to serve as one of the island’s youngest Commissioners
6 (now Mayors); and he served the Municipality of *Yigo* from January 1989 to January
7 1993; and

8 **WHEREAS**, being an individual with governmental experience who had served
9 as a Mayor and a Legislative Aide for the Guam Legislature, the Honorable John Finoña
10 Blas was selected to serve as the Executive Director of the Mayors Council of Guam;
11 and he served in that capacity from September 2001 until May 2008, where he focused
12 on ensuring that the operations of the Council followed all Guam laws, rules, and
13 regulations pertaining to the Mayors Council of Guam; and

14 **WHEREAS**, to uphold strong support and leadership with emergencies and
15 disasters, the Honorable John Finoña Blas was instrumental in increasing the Mayors
16 Council’s collaboration with the Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense by
17 ensuring that all preparedness, response, and recovery operations involved the Mayors
18 and Vice Mayors at all levels, as well as ensuring that the Mayors Council was included
19 in all of the on-island Homeland Security/FEMA Trainings, Workshops and Exercises;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas returned to the Guam Legislature
22 where he served during the Twenty-second (22nd) through the Twenty-third (23rd) Guam
23 Legislatures as Chief-of-Staff for then Vice Speaker Ted S. Nelson; and he continued
24 in his public service to our community in the Twenty-fourth (24th) and Twenty-fifth
25 (25th) Guam Legislatures working as a Legislative Committee Staff Member for former
26 Senator Alberto “Tony” C. Lamorena V from January to September 2001; and

1 **WHEREAS**, not limiting himself to public service employment, the Honorable
2 John Finoña Blas worked as a Special Projects Coordinator for the Guam Telephone
3 Authority (GTA) where he was instrumental in supporting the efforts towards the
4 company’s privatization, such that GTA continues to this day to be successful in
5 providing its services to the people of Guam; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas also served as the Executive
7 Director of the Guam Election Commission (GEC) from May 2008 through February
8 2011, where he maintained the mission and operations of the GEC, to include serving
9 as the Certifying Officer; ensuring compliance of financial reporting and website
10 requirements; preparing the annual appropriations budget for the GEC; administering
11 the implementation of Title 3, Guam Code Annotated (the Guam Election Commission
12 Law), and all other federal election laws applicable to Guam; and he also led in
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14 polling sites; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas’ service to Guam’s people also
16 entails his work as a Senior Policy Analyst for Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes in the
17 Thirty-second (32nd) and Thirty-third (33rd) Guam Legislatures; and he had also worked
18 in Guam’s tourism industry managing the operations of hotels; and


19 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas also served as a Veteran
20 Advocate/Outreach Specialist of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
21 Program where he served on the case management team supporting individual and
22 group counseling services, case management services, education, and other outreach
23 goals of the WestCare Foundation and the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness
24 Center; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Honorable John Finoña Blas’s life journey epitomizes the very
26 heartbeat of an unsung hero, and his life of service to our community symbolizes the
27 love and dedication he possessed for Guam’s people; now therefore, be it

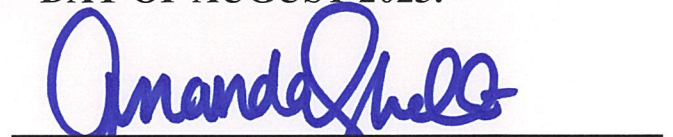
1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
2 behalf of the people of Guam, posthumously recognize the late Honorable John Finoña
3 Blas, Former Commissioner of the Municipality of *Yigo*, for his dedication to the island
4 and the people of Guam, and commemorate his legacy of service; and further expressing
5 condolences to his family on his passing, on behalf of the people of Guam; and be it
6 further

7 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
8 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of the
9 Honorable John Finoña Blas, and his wife Catherine T. Blas; and to the Honorable
10 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 18TH DAY OF AUGUST 2023.



THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker



AMANDA L SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

From: Michael Merfalen <mmerfalen.senatorsa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 9:13 AM
To: phmaterials@guamlegislature.org; mis@guamlegislature.org; av@guamlegislature.org; sgtarms@guamlegislature.org
Cc: rose.senatorsa@gmail.com; joe.senatorsa@gmail.com; msacelorio.senatorsa@gmail.com
Subject: Presentation Notice for Resolution No 176-37 (LS)

August 23, 2023

MEMORANDUM

**To: All Senators
37th Guam Legislature**

From: Senator Joe S. San Agustin

Subject: Presentation Notice for Resolution No. 176-37 (LS)

Buenas yan Hafa Adai!

Please join us for the presentation of **Resolution No. 176-37 (LS)** introduced by Joe S. San Agustin / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Amanda L. Shelton / Roy A. B. Quinata / Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas / William A. Parkinson / Therese M. Terlaje / Chris Barnett / Sabina Flores Perez / Christopher M. Dueñas / Telo T. Taitague / Thomas J. Fisher / Frank Blas, Jr. / Joanne Brown / Jesse A. Lujan. - **"Relative to posthumously recognizing the late Honorable John Finoña Blas, Former Commissioner (Mayor) of the Municipality of Yigo, for his dedication to the island and the people of Guam, and commemorating his legacy of service; and further expressing condolences to his family on his passing, on behalf of the people of Guam."**

The presentation will take place on **Thursday, August 24 2023 beginning at 10:00 a.m., Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall in the Guam Congress Building.**

We look forward to your attendance and participation!

Si Yu'os Ma'ase!

Michael Merfalen
The Office of Senator Joe S. San Agustin
Committee on General Government Operations & Appropriations