

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE 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
531-37 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	Relative to recognizing Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen on her retirement from the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency; and commending her for her dedicated commitment to public service as the first female Assistant Chief of Customs.	9/17/24 3:42 p.m.	9/20/24 3:00 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 531-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes 

Relative to recognizing Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen on her retirement from the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency; and commending her for her dedicated commitment to public service as the first female Assistant Chief of Customs.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to recognize the life and
4 accomplishments of those distinguished citizens of this great island, and it is custom of
5 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to commend those public servants who have devoted themselves
6 to faithfully serving in the best interests of this community and the needs of its residents;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, Darlene R. Merfalen, affectionately known as “Dar,” was born on
9 March 11, 1956, in the village of Tamuning, Guam, the middle child of three, to her late
10 parents David Mafnas Merfalen and Remedios Rojas Merfalen; and

11 **WHEREAS**, her educational journey began at St. Francis Catholic School,
12 where she attended from Kindergarten through 9th grade, and she later graduated from
13 Notre Dame High School, continuing her pursuit of higher education at Chaminade
14 University in Honolulu, Hawaii, before completing her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal
15 Justice at the University of Guam, followed by a Master’s Degree in Public
16 Administration; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Darlene R. Merfalen's law enforcement career began with the
2 Guam Police Department (GPD) in 1976, where she served as Police Officer I. She then
3 joined the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) as a Customs Officer I,
4 steadily rising through the ranks to become Customs Officer II, Customs Officer
5 Supervisor (Lieutenant), and eventually the Assistant Chief of Customs, holding the
6 esteemed rank of Colonel; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen made history as the first female
8 Assistant Chief of Customs, marking a significant milestone in Guam's law
9 enforcement community, and her leadership and service in this capacity have had a
10 lasting impact on the agency and its officers; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency is charged with the
12 vital responsibility of protecting the island's borders, preventing illegal contraband,
13 enforcing import/export regulations, and ensuring the safety and security of the people
14 of Guam; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen, has through her unwavering
16 commitment, safeguarded the interests of the people of Guam, playing an instrumental
17 role in securing the island's Economic, Environmental, Agricultural and Public Health
18 through her enforcement of Customs Laws and Regulations and

19 **WHEREAS**, throughout Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen's tenure, she has been
20 recognized by her peers and superiors as a highly valued member of the Agency,
21 consistently going above and beyond to ensure the effective enforcement of laws and
22 regulations, while maintaining fairness, diligence, and a commitment to justice; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen has not only contributed to the day-
24 to-day operations of the agency but has also been a mentor, role model, and leader
25 within the customs workforce, inspiring fellow officers through her work ethic,
26 dedication, and sense of duty; and

1 **WHEREAS**, her commitment to public service extends beyond her professional
2 career, as she has actively participated in community service efforts, including
3 providing assessments in the aftermath of major typhoons, engaging in Chamorro Week
4 festivities, contributing to the Customs and Quarantine Agency’s Employee
5 Recognition Program, and participating in the Annual GovGuam Labor Day and
6 Liberation Day activities; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Merfalen’s dedication to the well-being of her community
8 is further exemplified through her involvement in programs such as the Governor’s
9 Adopt-a-School cleanup, the Annual Relay-for-Life, and numerous other government-
10 hosted holiday celebrations and employee morale-boosting activities; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen is a dedicated and devoted Catholic
12 parishioner of Santa Teresita Church in Mangilao and actively participates in the
13 Mangilao community, particularly during Fiesta time, assisting wherever needed. A
14 proud three-year cancer survivor, she cherishes her role as an aunt to four nieces and
15 nephews and four great-grand nieces and nephews. Known for her vibrant personality,
16 Darlene enjoys playing the guitar, playing Texas Hold’em card games, and can often be
17 seen driving her Jeep around Guam or surfing on weekends; now therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
19 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize Colonel
20 Darlene R. Merfalen on her retirement from the Guam Customs and Quarantine
21 Agency; and commend her for her dedicated commitment to public service as the first
22 female Assistant Chief of Customs; and be it further

23 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
24 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
25 the same be thereafter transmitted to Colonel Darlene R. Merfalen; and to the Honorable
26 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF SEPTEMBER 2024.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

CHRIS BARNETT
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary