



OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE
 Chairperson of the Committee
 On Culture and Justice

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 34th Guam Legislature

April 12, 2017

The Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz
 Speaker

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan
 34th Guam Legislature
 Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa
 Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
 Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Resolution No. 40-34 (COR)

Dear Speaker Cruz:

Transmitted herewith is the **Committee Report on Resolution No. 40-34 (COR), As Introduced** - "Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress."

Votes are as follows:

- 8 TO DO PASS
- 0 TO NOT PASS
- 0 TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- 0 TO ABSTAIN
- 0 TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Therese M. Terlaje

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 T: (671) 472-3586 | F: (671) 472-3589 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com
www.senatorterlaje.com

COMMITTEE REPORT ON

Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) As Introduced

“Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress.”




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THERESE M. TERLAJE
Chairperson of the Committee
On Culture and Justice

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Lihelaturan Guåhan
34th Guam Legislature

April 12, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members
34th Guam Legislature

From: Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje 
Author

Subject: Committee Report on Resolution No. 40-34 (COR), As Introduced

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) – As Introduced – “Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Lihelaturan Guåhan* (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress.”

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Res. No. 40-34 (COR)
- Copy of COR Pre-Referral Checklist on Res. No. 40-34 (COR)
- Copy of Res. No. 40-34 (COR)
- Notices of Public Hearing
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copy of the Public Hearing Agenda
- Copies of Submitted Testimony & Supporting Documents
- Related News Reports
- Committee Report Digest
- Committee Vote Sheet

Please take the appropriate action on the attached vote sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

I MINA 'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTION STATUS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED
40-34 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje B.J.F. Cruz Thomas C. Ada Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. FRANK B. AGUON Michael F.Q. San Nicolas Telena C. Nelson Joe S. San Agustin Régine Biscoe Lee	RELATIVE TO ADVOCATING FOR THE INCLUSION OF VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL AS RADIATION EXPOSED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION OF CERTAIN DISABILITIES BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN (THE 34TH GUAM LEGISLATURE) FOR H.R. 632 AND S. 283, THE MARK TAKAI ATOMIC VETERANS HEALTHCARE PARITY ACT, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.	02/22/17 1:34 p.m.			2/23/2017	The Author		



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, *Chairman*
I Mina'Trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 34th Guam Legislature



MEMO

To: Ms. Rennae Meno
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Julian Aguon
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Chairman of the Committee on Rules

Date: February 23, 2017

Re: Referral of Resolution No. 40-34 (COR)

Buenas yan Háfa adai.

As per my authority as Chairman of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 40-34 (COR)**.

Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred, in my name, to **Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, author of Resolution No. 40-34 (COR)**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Christian Valencia, Committee on Rules Director, at 472-6453.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Chairman of the Committee on Rules





Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

FIRST Notice for Public Hearing - Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 5:30 PM

2 messages

Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 28, 2017 at 9:10 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
Cc: Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>, MIS Guam Legislature <mis@guamlegislature.org>, RennaeVanessa Meno <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unisog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

Håfa adai,

Please see pasted below and attached public hearing notice from Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you,
Ryan Cabanero
Policy Analyst

March 28, 2017

MEMORANDUM

From: Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Chairperson, Committee on Culture and Justice

Subject: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing - Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 5:30 PM

Håfa Adai!

In accordance with the Open Government Law, relative to notices for public meetings, please be advised that the Committee on Culture and Justice will convene a public hearing on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, beginning at 5:30 PM in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña). On the agenda are the following items:

Resolutions:

- **Resolution No. 25-34 (COR):** Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåtto na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for H.R. 809, the *Fighting for Orange-Stricken Territories in Eastern Regions (FOSTER) Act*, introduced by the Honorable Congressman Dennis Ross, R-Florida, on February 1, 2017, which would provide presumptive Agent Orange exposure status to Vietnam War-era veterans who served in specific areas, including Guam, and show symptoms of medical conditions currently associated with exposure to Agent Orange in order to receive U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits; and to seeking justice for veterans and civilians exposed to Agent Orange on Guam.
- **Resolution No. 40-34 (COR):** Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåtto na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 34th Guam Legislature) for

H.R. 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed. If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committee requests that copies be submitted prior to the public hearing date and should be addressed to Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam; at the mail room of the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; or via email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, at (671) 472-3586 or by sending an email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

--


The Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Committee on Culture and Justice
I Mina'trentai Kuttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan
34th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 472-3589

senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

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 **First notice PH 4.4.17 Agent Orange.pdf**
71K

Joe San Agustin <joesa@guamlegislature.org>
To: Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Tue, Mar 28, 2017 at 9:47 AM

Now posted, Thank You.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Joe San Agustin

Chief Protocol Officer (Acting)

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan

155 Hesler Place, Suite 201, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

www.guamlegislature.com / protocol@guamlegislature.org




OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER
THERESE M. TERLAJE
Chairperson of the Committee
On Culture and Justice

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan
34th Guam Legislature

March 28, 2017

MEMORANDUM

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Chairperson, Committee on Culture and Justice

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 472-3589 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com
www.senatorterlaje.com



Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

SECOND Notice for Public Hearing - Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 5:30 PM

1 message

Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 31, 2017 at 8:08 AM
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Senator Therese Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
Cc: Rennae Vanessa Meno <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, Joe San Agustin <protocol@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unisog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, MIS Guam Legislature <mis@guamlegislature.org>

Håfa adai,

Please see pasted below and attached public hearing notice from Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje.

Should you have any questions, please contact our office.

Thank you,
Ryan Cabanero
Policy Analyst

March 31, 2017

MEMORANDUM

From: Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Chairperson, Committee on Culture and Justice

Subject: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing - Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 5:30 PM

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

--

The Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Committee on Culture and Justice
I Mina'trentai Kuttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan
34th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 472-3589
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THERESE M. TERLAJE
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On Culture and Justice

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan
34th Guam Legislature

March 31, 2017

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www.senatorterlaje.com

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fbtorres671@gmail.com

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hazel.estrellado@guamlesgislature.org
hermina.certeza@senatorbjcruz.com
hill.bruce@abc.net.au
hope.senatorsa@gmail.com
ihernandez@guamlegislature.org
info@chinesetlmesguam.com
james.servino@guamlegislature.org
jason@kuam.com
jason@senatormorrison.com
jborja@senatorada.org
Jennifer.lj.dulla@gmail.com
jessica@ghra.org
joan@kuam.com
joanne.senatorsa@gmail.com
joanne@guamlegislature.org
joe@toduguam.com
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rollymanuntag@gmail.com
rose.senatorsa@gmail.com
rowena@senatormorrison.com
rsalas@senatorada.org
rsimlsalas@gmail.com
sabrina@kuam.com
sarah.elmore@senatorbjcruz.com
senator.sa@gmail.com
senator@senatorbjcruz.com
senatorrodriguez@gmail.com
senatorjoessanagustin@gmail.com
senatormary@guamlegislature.org
senatorsannicolas@gmail.com

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senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com
senjvespaldon@gmail.com
sgtarms@guamlegislature.org
sitarose2@yahoo.com
sixquintanilla@gmail.com
slimtlaco@guampdn.com
smendiola@guamlegislature.org
sonedera-salas@guamlegislature.org
staff@frankaguonjr.com
stephaniemendiola@gmail.com
tcastro@guam.net
tcruznelson@gmail.com
team5andahalfstar@gmail.com
telo.taltague@visitguam.org
thebigshow@k57.com
tina.alicto@yahoo.com
tjtaitano@cs.com
tom@senatorada.org
tommy@senatormorrison.com
tritten@pstripes.asd.mil
tterlaje@guam.net
xiosormd@gmail.com
xiosormd@yahoo.com
ylee2@guam.gannett.com
yourvoice.guam@gmail.com

Grandparents' pink grad gift comes right out of the blue



DEAR ABBY
JEANNE
PHILLIPS

My daughter is graduating from high school in May. She has been accepted to a prestigious university, entirely due to her own hard work and dedication.

My father-in-law recently informed us that his new wife had selected our daughter's graduation present, and they are excited to give it to her. They chose a pink luggage set. My husband and I are mystified about why they decided this would be the perfect gift for our daughter. We know she will be embarrassed — but gracious — if she receives this gift in front of our family and friends on graduation day. We would like to spare her the awkwardness and having to return an inappropriate gift.

Abby, would it be rude of us to strongly encourage them to rethink their gift? — MYSTIFIED MOTHER

DEAR MOTHER: I do not advise your becoming involved with this. Warn your daughter in advance what the gift will be so she isn't caught flat-footed on graduation day. If she chooses to exchange the luggage for something she feels will be more appropriate, she should do so. Luggage that stands out like a sore thumb may be easier to spot on an airport carousel, but it can also be more vulnerable to theft than something that blends in.

DEAR ABBY: I have a tough problem. I care very much for my girl-

friend. She keeps me in check and does everything for me. However, my best friend's sister and I are extremely close. By close, I mean we have conversations about how things would be if we were dating. We have so much fun together. We never, ever argue, whereas my girlfriend and I are constantly fighting. I legitimately want the other girl, but I don't know what I should do. — SCARED AND STUCK IN ST. PAUL

DEAR SCARED AND STUCK: You are a free man, neither married nor engaged. Because you have romantic feelings for someone else, gather your courage and level with your girlfriend. The news will probably come as a shock to her, but it's the honest thing to do and better for both of you.

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband re-

cently died, and I have just learned he had an illegitimate son 25 years ago. The son tracked me down wanting to know things about his biological father. My late husband and I had two children before this one was born. So, do I tell my children they have a half-brother and his aunts they have another nephew? — TRACKED DOWN IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TRACKED DOWN: I see no reason to make any announcements right now. Keep the news to yourself until you are sure that the man wants more contact with his relatives and isn't just looking for medical information that could affect him.

Contact: *Dear Abby*, at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

April 4
The Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña). On

the agenda are the following items: Resolution No. 25-34 (COR), related to supporting the Fighting for Orange Stricken Territories in Eastern Regions (FOSTERS) Act which would provide Agent Orange Status to Vietnam

War-era veterans who served in specific areas, including Guam, and seeks justice for veterans and civilians exposed to Agent Orange and Resolution No. 40-34 (COR), related to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the clean-up at Eniwetok Atoll as radiation exposed veterans and expressing support for the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act. The public is invited to attend and provide comments. For more information, contact Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or senatorterlaje@gmail.com.

The Guam Workforce Development Board General Membership meeting will be at 4 p.m. April 5 at the American Job Center, 3rd floor, Bell Tower Plaza, 710 West Marine Corps Drive. For information, contact 475-7074/4 or email joelen.santos@dol.guam.gov.

Jump start your morning

with 2 Mr. Brown Coffees and a PDNI!

April 6
The University of Guam Regent Nominating Council meeting will be held at noon April 6 in the President's conference room, on the 2nd floor of the Jesus S. & Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building. For information, contact

Wife is ambivalent about abusive husband



DEAR ANNIE

Dear Annie: My husband and I recently put our house on the market and moved to a Southern state to spend our retirement there. I am 64, and he is 73. The house went under contract, and I went north to clean up and sell everything. The house sale fell through, and I am relisting. He wants me to come home and close up the house. I do not want to keep it empty.

The problem is that I don't miss him. We have been married for eight years. When we got married, I knew he drank a lot, but I didn't realize that if there is something on his mind while he's drinking he be-

comes verbally abusive. On average, he verbally abuses me every other week, depending on whether anything is troubling him.

We do, however, have some mutual likes. Since we moved South, his verbal abuse has decreased. We attended counseling before the move. The counselor said that he needs to stop drinking and that his abuse is alcohol-driven. He will not give up drinking. He hit me once, and I left him; I only agreed to go back with him if we went to counseling.

He has made my life very comfortable, and I have given him the companionship he needs, but there is something missing. My physical feelings for him are cold. I am not unhappy with him, but I am not happy, either. Please advise.

— Stagnating in the South

Dear Stagnant: It is unaccept-

able for your husband to abuse you, verbally or physically. You deserve to feel safe, happy and free.

The "something missing" you mention is something that's missing not from your relationship but from your husband. He is deeply troubled, and he needs to find his own path to recovery. You can encourage him to seek help, but you cannot control the outcome. Please consider attending an Al-Anon Family Groups meeting in your town. Try a few different groups. I know; I've recommended the organization about a hundred times in this column. I'm guessing I'll recommend it a hundred thousand times more. It's that helpful.

Dear Annie: I have been a reader of advice columns since approximately 1958, when I first learned to read a newspaper. Ann Landers' col-

umn, tion in I v ing a sion. print ing S with my. n one c thoug her. c An You away Wave De your work Send to de

OBITUARIES

JOSEPHINE MAFNAS CAMACHO

Josephine Mafnas Camacho, also known as "Mama Jo," of Sinajana, formerly of Barrigada, died March 29 at the age of 68.

Mass of Intention is offered at 6 p.m. daily, 5 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Sunday at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Agana Heights.

Last respects will be held beginning at 9 a.m. April 6 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Agana Heights. Mass for Christian Burial will be at noon. Burial will follow at Guam Memorial Park in Leyang, Barrigada.

JOVITA LORAIN CRUZ RIVERA

Jovita Loraine Cruz Rivera, fondly known as "Lori" of Yigo, died March 29 at the age of 49.

Rosary is being said at 6:30 p.m. nightly at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Yigo.

Last respects will be held from 9 to 11:15 a.m. April 6 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catho-

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

New Listings

» The University of Guam Regent Nominating Council meeting will be held at noon April 6 in the president's conference room, on the 2nd floor of the Jesus S. & Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building. For information or special accommodations, contact the ADA Coordinator at 735-2244, TTY 735-2243.

» The Guam Legislature's Committee on Culture and Justice will convene a Public Hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m. April 4 in I Liheslaturan Guåhan's Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, 96910). On the agenda are the following items: Resolution No. 25-34 (COR), related to supporting the Fighting for Orange-Stricken Territories in Eastern Regions (FOSTERS) Act which would provide Agent Orange Status to Vietnam War-era veterans who served in specific areas, including Guam, and seeks justice for veterans and civilians exposed to

modations, contact the Office of Vice Speaker Theresse M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or by sending an email to senatorterlaje-guam@gmail.com.

April 5

» The Guam Workforce Development Board General Membership meeting will be at 4 p.m. April 5 at the American Job Center, 3rd floor, Bell Tower Plaza, 710 West Marine Corps Drive. For special accommodations or information, contact Joleen Santos at 475-7074/4 or email joleen.santos@dol.guam.gov.

April 8

» A special meeting of members of the Guam Basketball Confederation will be held at 8 a.m. April 8 at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Center, Guam.

April 11

» The Guam Housing Corporation will be holding its regular board of directors meeting at 11:30 a.m. April 11 on the 5th Floor, ITC building, GEDA conference room. For special accommodations, call 647-4143.

April 12

» Alcoholic Beverage Control board meeting will be held at 5 p.m. April 12 at

EXPRESS CARE

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LOCAL Pssst! Hater? You're in the Local section of the Post - the news that concerns you the most. Do you have a news tip? Feel free to email editor@postguam.com.

Diabetes coalition: Should Guam consider sugar tax?

By Manny Cruz
manny@postguam.com

The Guam Diabetes Control Coalition presented plans to drastically curb diabetes rates on Guam by 2020 at a Rotary Club of Guam meeting on Tuesday, and raised the issue of whether Guam could consider a tax on sugary drinks.

"The main thing we want to drive home is the importance of getting a risk assessment done and getting screened," spokeswoman Jina Rojas

taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, syrups and powders by 4 cents an ounce, but Rojas said more research will have to be done.

Currently, three cities and two states across the continental United States maintain "sugar tax" legislation.

Last November, four soda tax measures on local ballots in California and Colorado passed with overwhelming support, according to the California-based public health advocacy group Kick the Can Network.

Drinking one or two sugary drinks

lance System Report

The coalition's five-year plan includes four key measures to curb the island's diabetes epidemic: data collection and consolidation; policy implementation; prevention and health promotion; and clinical services.

Other policy actions would implement non-communicable disease education across public schools.

"Ideally, these would be introduced into existing health science classes that students are already required to take," Rojas said.

World War II

"If you think about it, before the war we didn't have these problems," Rojas said. "We need to revert back to eating more greens, and limit starch consumption."

Later during the presentation, Rojas said, "Healthy foods are expensive, but so is paying health care costs. Which one would you rather pay for?" Meanwhile, Glynis Almonte, executive director of the Guam Nurses Association, questioned why there are so many dialysis centers on island.

Leonora Taulung and injured two men and a 3-year-old child.

Bang's guilty plea was deferred for a minimum of three years, so long as he complies with the conditions of his probation. If he violates his probation, he could serve up to 10 years imprisonment.

Cenzon also approved the requested \$53,807. Its restitution to Taulung's family. She noted the full amount must be paid by the end of Bang's probation. Taulung's husband sat in the courtroom on Tuesday, still suffering from the loss of his wife.

It's frustrating. Every day it causes me so much pain. My daughter still asks about her mom.

Husband of fatal crash victim Leonora Taulung

"It's frustrating. Every day it causes me so much pain," he said in a written statement issued in court. "My daughter still asks about her mom. We had so many plans together for our daughter. Everything is changed now."

Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
8:30 p.m.

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña

AGENDA

Resolution No. 25-34 (COR): Relative to expressing the support of *Mina Trenzai Kuitro na Liheslaturan* (Mina Trenzai Kuitro na Liheslaturan) for H.R. 808, the *Flagging for Orange* Stricken Veterans in Eastern Regions (FOSTER) Act, introduced by the Honorable Congressman Dennis Ross, R-Florida, on February 1, 2017, which would provide presumptive Agent Orange exposure status to Vietnam War-era veterans who served in specific areas, including Guam, and show symptoms of medical conditions currently associated with exposure to Agent Orange in order to receive U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, and to seeking justice for veterans and civilians exposed to Agent Orange on Guam.

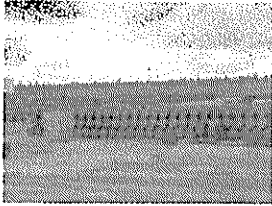
Resolution No. 40-34 (COR): Relative to advocating for the inclusion of Veterans, who participated in the cleanup of Eniwetok Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *Mina Trenzai Kuitro na Liheslaturan* (Mina Trenzai Kuitro na Liheslaturan) for H.R. 832 and 8, 2017, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress.

This is a public hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to receive information, questions and the Office of the Guam Council on Veterans Affairs. The hearing is open to the public. The hearing will be held at the Guam Congress Building, 1st Floor, Hagåtña, GU. For more information, please call the Office of the Guam Council on Veterans Affairs at 472-3388, or email at ocv@postguam.com. The hearing will be held at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

VICE SPEAKER THERESA M. TERLAJE
Committee on Culture and Justice

Resolutions support inclusion in bills dealing with Guam contamination

Kyla P Mora , kmora@guampdn.com 8:39 p.m. ChT March 29, 2017



(Photo: Courtesy of Robert Burgett)

A public hearing scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 4 will address two resolutions supporting Guam inclusion in bills dealing with radiation and Agent Orange contamination on Guam.

The hearing will be held the Guam Legislature's public hearing room.

The hearing will address Resolution 25-34, which declares official support for the Fighting for Orange-Stricken Territories in Eastern Regions Act (FOSTER) Act (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/609>). The resolution also requests Congress recognize the use of Agent Orange on Guam during the Vietnam War and petitions for service-connection presumption to veterans presumed to be

exposed to Agent Orange on Guam.

The hearing also will address Resolution 40-34, which petitions Congress to expand the Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act (<https://www.justice.gov/civil/common/reca>) to include veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll. The resolution also expresses official support for the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/632/text>), which would grant service-connected presumption to veterans exposed to radiation.

READ MORE:

Group presses for radiation compensation
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/11/26/group-presses-radiation-compensation/94464822/>)

Congressman introduces Guam-inspired Agent Orange bill
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2017/02/02/congressman-introduces-guam-inspired-agent-orange-bill/97419880/>)

More veterans allege Agent Orange use at military bases
(<http://www.guampdn.com/longform/news/2017/01/14/more-veterans-allege-agent-orange-use-military-bases/96568368/>)

Read or Share this story: <http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2017/03/29/resolutions-support-inclusion-bills-dealing-guam-contamination/99718930/>



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I Mina'trentai Kuáttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan

34th Guam Legislature

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER

THERESE M. TERLAJE

Chairperson of the Committee
On Culture and Justice

Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Resolution No. 25-34 (COR) - Introduced by: Therese M. Terlaje
RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF *I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* FOR H.R. 809, *THE FIGHTING FOR ORANGE-STRICKEN TERRITORIES IN EASTERN REGIONS (FOSTER) ACT*, INTRODUCED BY THE HONORABLE CONGRESSMAN DENNIS ROSS, R-FLORIDA, ON FEBRUARY 1, 2017, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE PRESUMPTIVE AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE STATUS TO VIETNAM WAR-ERA VETERANS WHO SERVED IN SPECIFIC AREAS, INCLUDING GUAM, AND SHOW SYMPTOMS OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS CURRENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BENEFITS; AND TO SEEKING JUSTICE FOR VETERANS AND CIVILIANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE ON GUAM.

Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) - Introduced by: Therese M. Terlaje
RELATIVE TO ADVOCATING FOR THE INCLUSION OF VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL AS RADIATION EXPOSED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION OF CERTAIN DISABILITIES BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF *I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* (THE 34TH GUAM LEGISLATURE) H.R. 632 AND S. 283, *THE MARK TAKAI ATOMIC VETERANS HEALTHCARE PARITY ACT*, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 and stream online via [I Liheslaturan Guåhan's](#) live feed. If written testimonies are to be presented at the Public Hearing, the Committee requests that copies be submitted prior to the public hearing date and should be addressed to Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam; at the mail room of the Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910; or via email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, at (671) 472-3586 or by sending an email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com.

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
T: (671) 472-3586 | F: (671) 472-3589 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com
www.senatorterlaje.com



I Mina'trentai Kuáttro na Liheslaturan Guáhan
 Office of the Vice Speaker
 Senator Therese M. Terlaje
 Committee On Culture and Justice

Date: Tuesday, April 04, 2017
 Resolution - Bill No.: 40-34 (COR)

Time: 5:30 PM

Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Kuáttro na Liheslaturan Guáhan (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act, introduced in the United States Congress.

	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	Type of Testimony		Support	
					WRITTEN	ORAL	Yes	No
1	Robert N. Celestini		6887277	NA	✓	✓		
2	Vose U. GREGGIO	Dedeche	686-9075			✓		✓
3	JOE SAN AGUSTIN	Dedeche	688-5117	Tankinlae@hotmail.com		✓		✓
4								
5								
6								
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10								
11								
12								



I Mina'trentai Kuáttro na Liheslaturan Guáhan
 Office of the Vice Speaker
 Senator Therese M. Terlaje
 Committee On Culture and Justice

Date: Tuesday, April 04, 2017
 Resolution - Bill No.: 40-34 (COR)

Time: 5:30 PM

Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Kuáttro na Liheslaturan Guáhan (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act, introduced in the United States Congress.

	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	Type of Testimony		Support	
					WRITTEN	ORAL	Yes	No
1	Enrique Torres	172 W.W. Lejon Rd Yona	789-2895		✓		✓	
2	TOM DIEULIN	ASAT	727-1495		✓			
3								
4								
5								
6								
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11								
12								

4/4/2017

I am here in support of Res. 25-34 and 40-34

Our Veterans are suffering from the effects of agent orange that was supposed to give us the advantage of a neutralized landing zone or field of fire. When food source are contaminated and our enemies cannot eat from them, then we physically try and break them down, before we engage them. Sounds strange or in other words unconventional. But where American Soldiers Lives are at stake then we want to give them all the supports we can provide.

When a Commander is certain that the enemy will over run him, then the only recourse is to call in the Code. To lay everything inside his perimeter. "Broken Arrow"

We are alive maybe because Decisions are made to do so. So we get to live another day. We were given the chance to tell our story. So-----

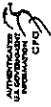
IN AS MUCH AS HOW GROSS WE LOOKED AT THE EFFECTS OF AGENT ORANGE . ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT ITS POSSIBLE THAT IT DID IN FACT GAVE US THE ADVANTAGE BACK THEN.

SENATORS, PLEASE FORMULATE THE PLAN WELL TO EXECUTE 25-34 and 40-34 SO THAT OUR PEOPLE AND VETERANS WILL GET WHAT THEY DESERVED.

THANK YOU

DAN MENDIOLA

CHAIRMAN / GUAM VETERANS COMMISSION



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 632

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LANGERTIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SPEER, Mr. POLJACK, Mr. HACE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LOBRONDO, and Mr. PERLAUTYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Mark Takai Atomic
- 5 Veterans Healthcare Parity Act".

1 SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN
 2 CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL AS RADI-
 3 ATION EXPOSED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES
 4 OF PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION
 5 OF CERTAIN DISABILITIES BY DEPARTMENT
 6 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

7 Section 1112(c)(3)(B) of title 38, United States
 8 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
 9 clause:

10 "(\v) Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll dur-
 11 ing the period beginning on January 1,
 12 1977, and ending on December 31,
 13 1980."

O

- 1 SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN
- 2 CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL AS RADI-
- 3 ATION EXPOSED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES
- 4 OF PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION
- 5 OF CERTAIN DISABILITIES BY DEPARTMENT
- 6 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
- 7 Section 1112(c)(3)(B) of title 38, United States
- 8 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
- 9 clause:
- 10 “(v) Cleanup of Enewetak Atoll during the
- 11 period beginning on January 1, 1977, and end-
- 12 ing on December 31, 1980.”.

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II

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
S. 283

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. TILLES, Mr. COONS, Mr. MURKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
- 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the “Mark Takai Atomic
- 5 Veterans Healthcare Parity Act”.

Fnewetak Cleanup Veterans

MARK TAKAI BILL SENATE BILL 632 2017

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

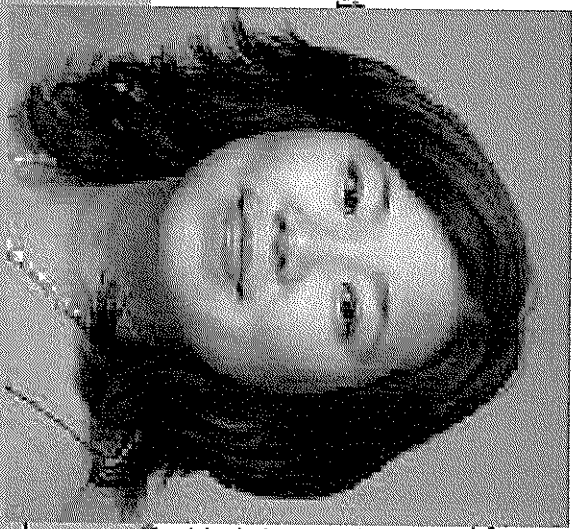
H. R. 632

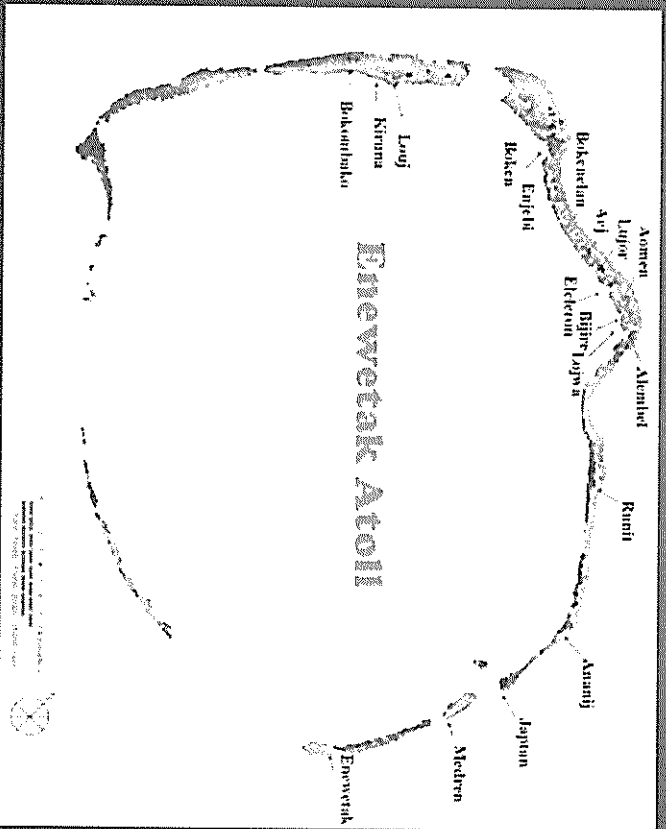
To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Eniwetok Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

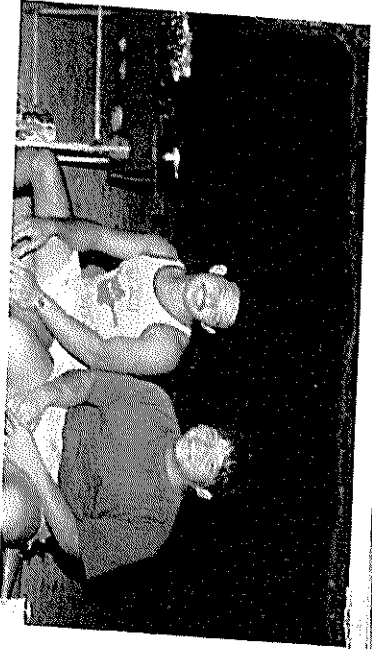
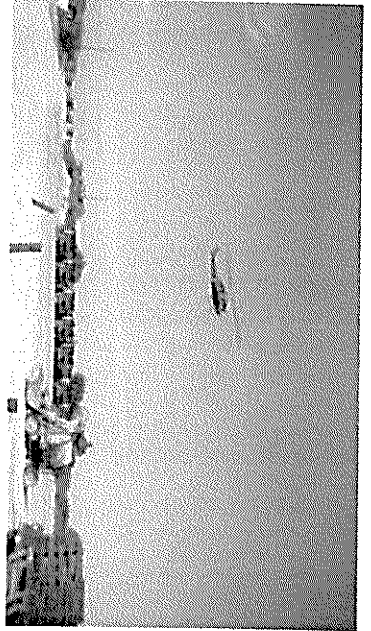
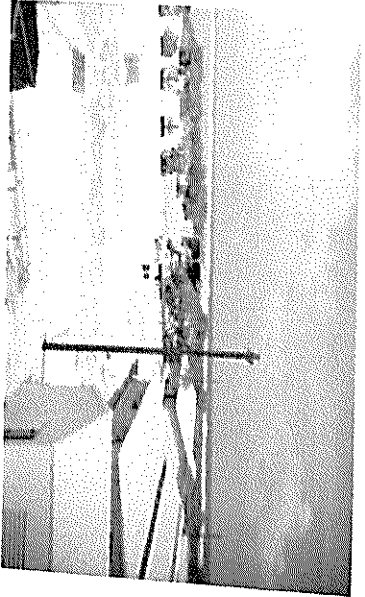
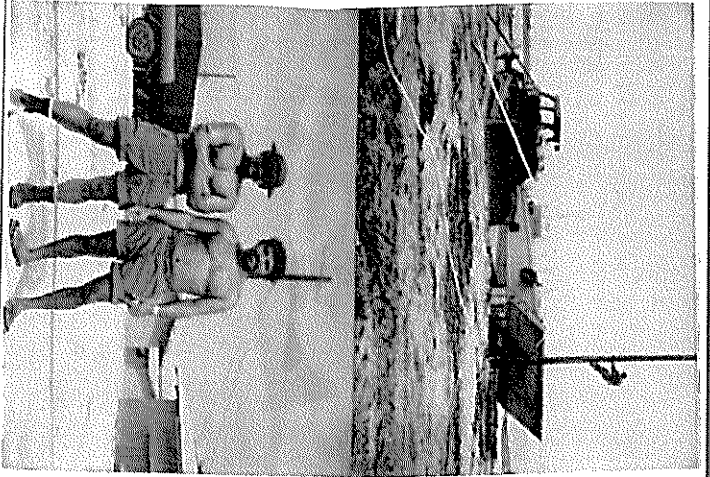
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

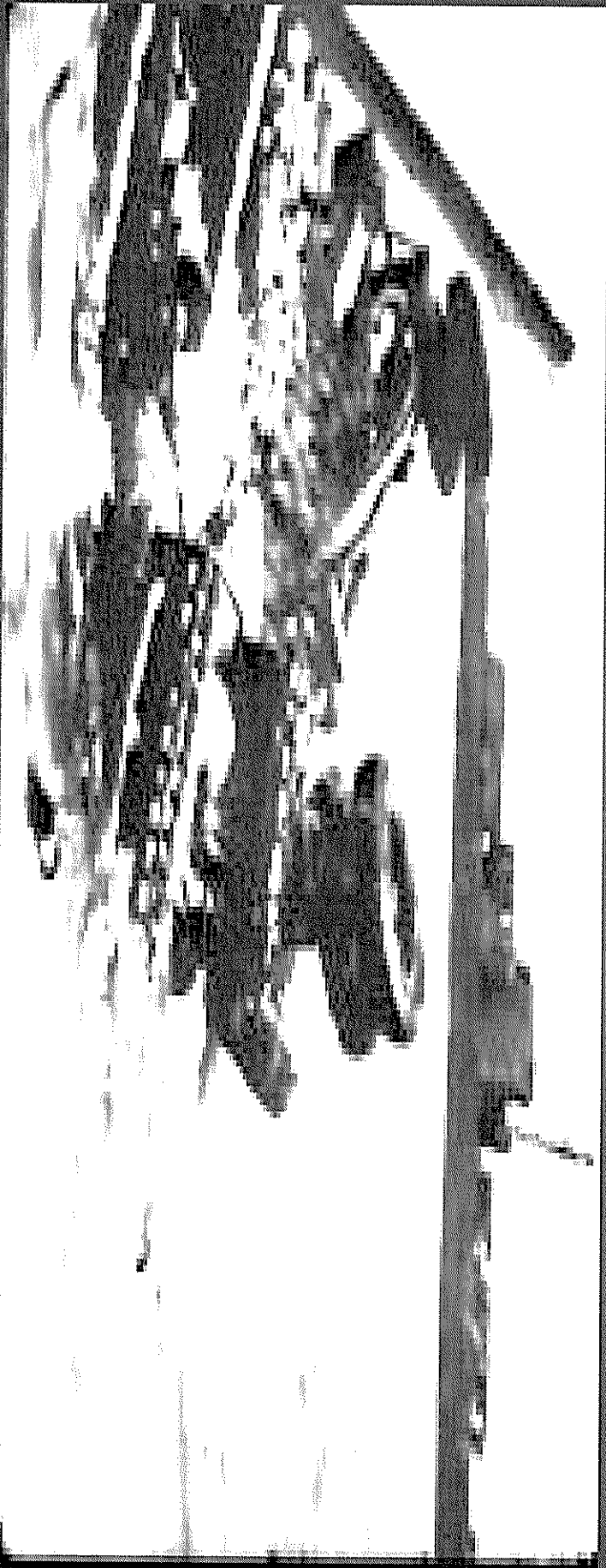
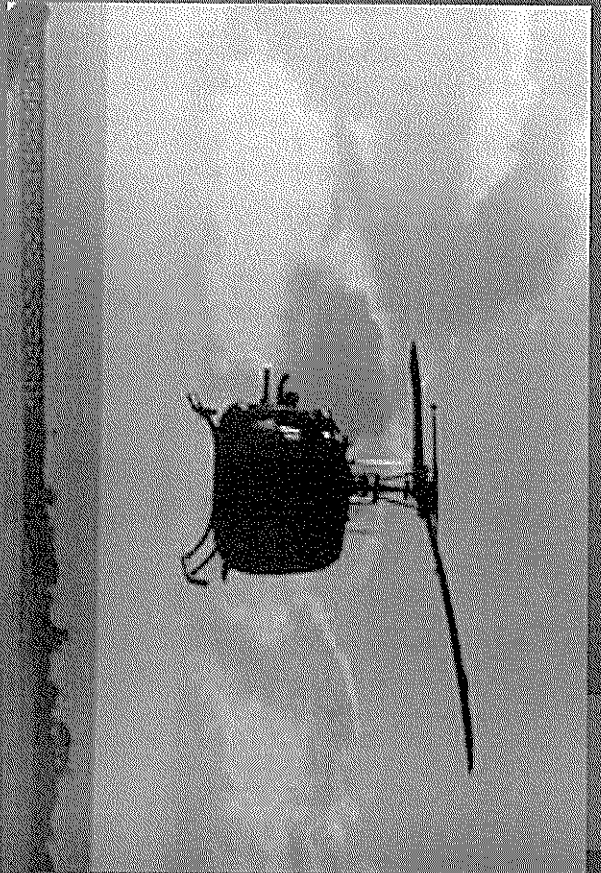
JANUARY 24, 2017

YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LANGRISH, Mr. WILSON
SPER, Mr. POLITT, Mr. HECK, Mrs. DIN-
Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. GAEBARD, Mr. LOBONDO,
introduced the following bill, which was referred
to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs





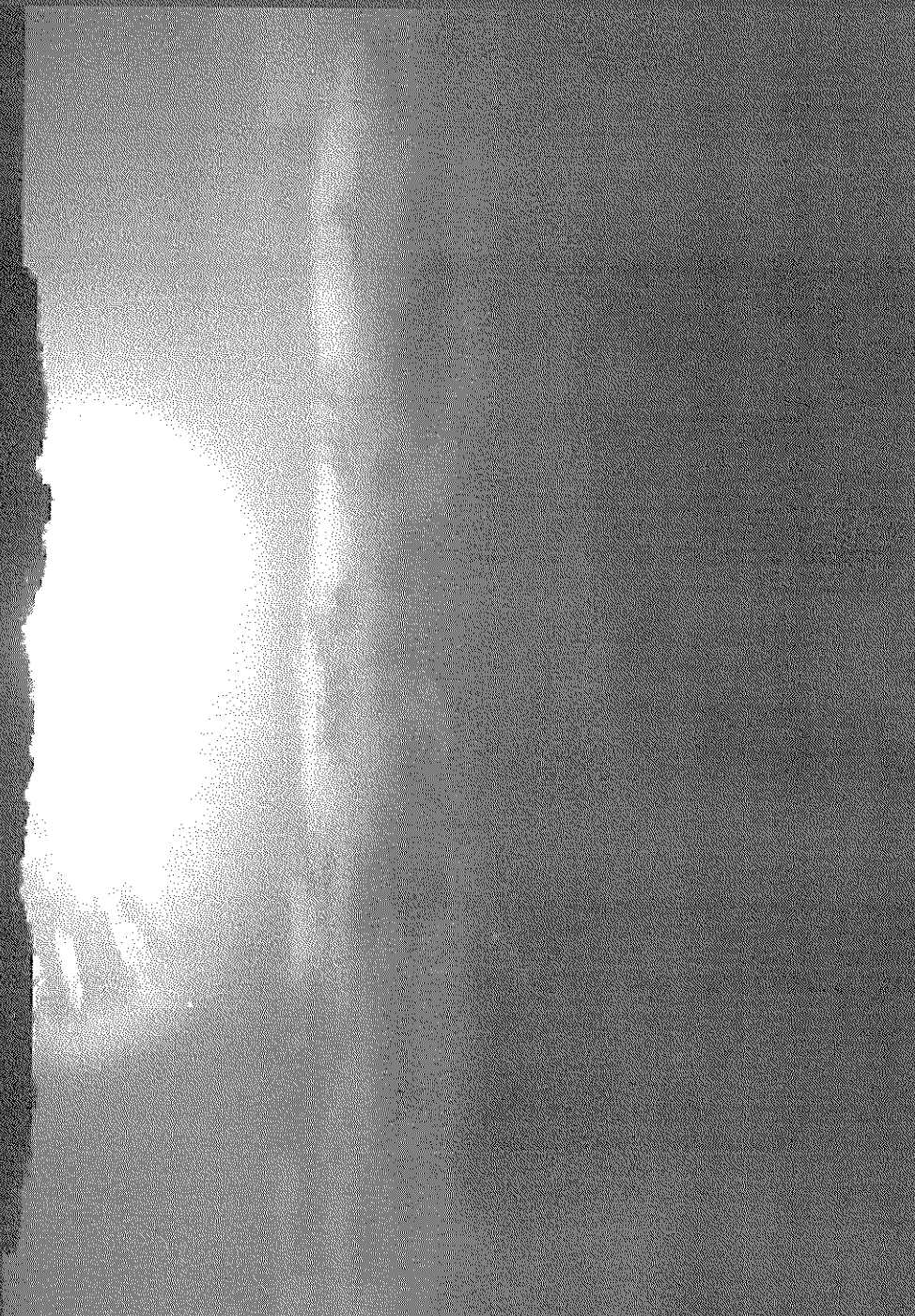




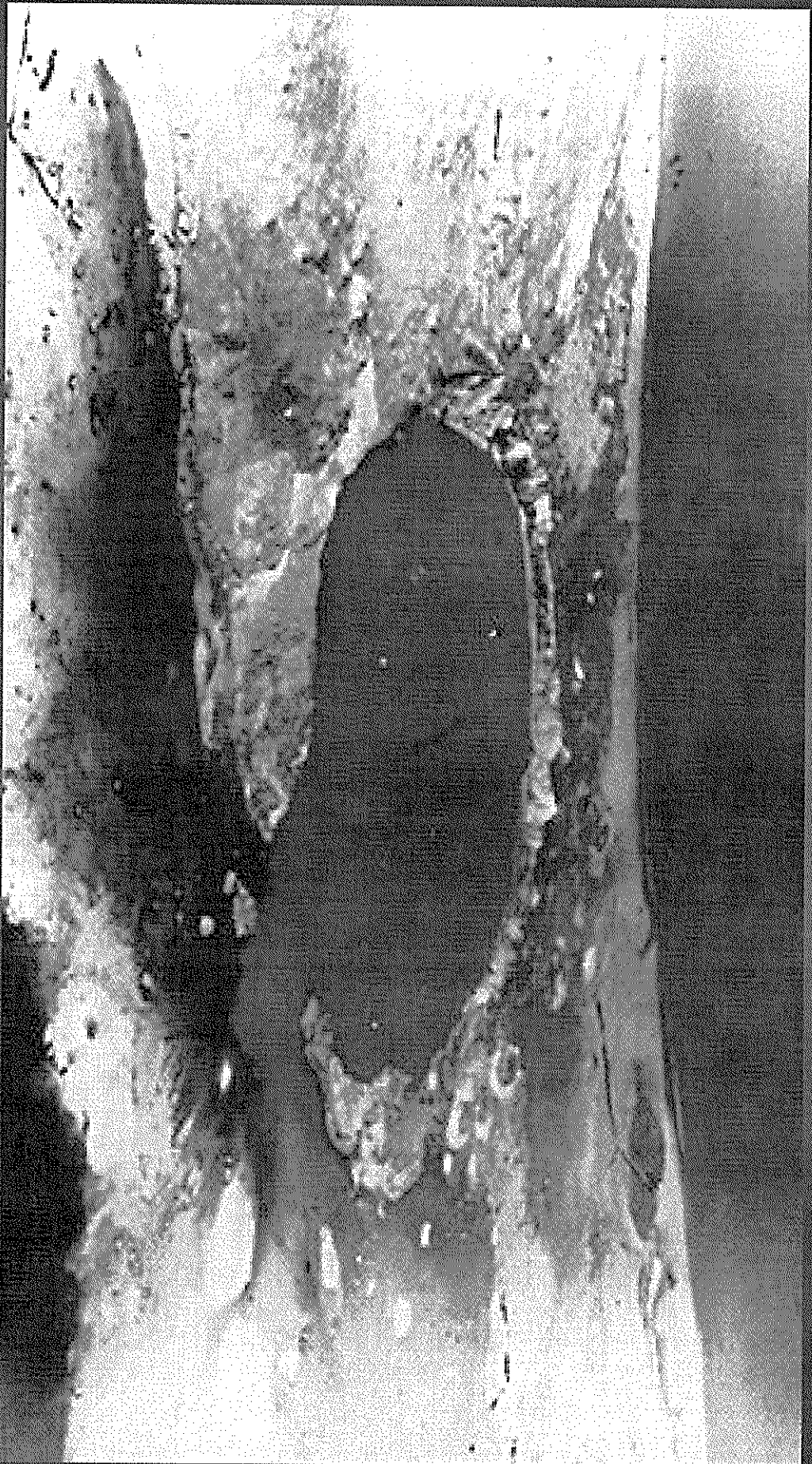


Test: Cactus Location: Runit
(Yvonne) Island Enewetak
Yield: 18 kiloton
Date: May 6, 1958 (local)

HARDTRACK I Cactus Surface Shot



Hardtrack Cactus Crater



Colored photo of Runit Island and the Dome



Cactus Dome completed: Outside the dome was tested and still has readings of Cesium 137, and plutonium.

Runit Island, Enewetak Atoll



115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION S. 283

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017 Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans'

Affairs A BILL To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. R. 632

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JANUARY 24, 2017 Ms. MENG (for herself,
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LANGHEVIN, Mr.
WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SPEIER, Mr.
POLIQUIN, Mr. HECK, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms.
MCCOLLUM, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms.
GABBARD, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr.
PERLMUTTER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on

Veterans' Affairs A BILL To amend title 38,
United States Code, to provide for the treatment
of veterans who participated in the cleanup of
Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans
for purposes of the presumption of
service-connection of certain disabilities by the
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.



OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER

THERESE M. TERLAJE

Chairperson of the Committee

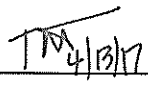



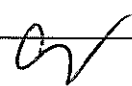

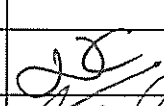

On Culture and Justice

I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan

34th Guam Legislature

SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION VOTE SHEET

Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) – Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress.

	SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
Speaker B.J.F. Cruz						
Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje		✓				
Senator Régine Biscoe Lee						
Senator Thomas C. Ada		✓				
Senator Joe S. San Agustin		✓				
Senator Telena Cruz Nelson		✓				
Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas						
Senator Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.		✓				
Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. 13 APR 2017		✓				
Senator James V. Espaldon						
Senator Tommy Morrison						
Senator Mary Camacho Torres						
Senator Louise B. Muña						
Senator William M. Castro		✓				
Senator Fernando Esteves		✓				



I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan

34th Guam Legislature

OFFICE OF THE VICE SPEAKER

THERESE M. TERLAJE

Chairperson of the Committee
On Culture and Justice

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Resolution No. 40-34 (COR), As Introduced –Therese M. Terlaje – “Relative to advocating for the inclusion of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, and to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R. 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in the United States Congress.”

I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) was introduced by Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje on February 22, 2017, and referred to the Author on February 23, 2017.

The Author, Vice Speaker Terlaje, convened a public hearing on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Guam Congress Building’s Public Hearing Room. The hearing for Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) (second item on the agenda) began at 5:36 p.m. and concluded at 8:01 p.m.

Public Notice Requirements.

Notices for this public hearing were disseminated via email to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on March 28, 2017 and again on March 31, 2017 and published in the Pacific Daily news on March 29 and April 3 through April 4, 2017. The notice was also published in the Guam Daily Post on March 29, 2017.

Senators Present

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Senator Telen Cruz Nelson
Senator Fernando B. Esteves
Senator Régine Biscoe Lee

Appeared Before the Committee

Robert N. Celestial
Jose Garrido
Joe A. San Agustin
Enrique Torres
Tom Devlin

Submitted Written Testimony

Daniel Mendiola, Veterans Commission

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje called the public hearing to order on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at 5:36 p.m. Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) was the second item on the Agenda.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:

I'm now going to call those testifying for Resolution No. 40-34: Robert Celestial, Jose Garrido, and Joe San Agustin. Actually, let us take a one-minute break to prepare for the next item on the agenda.

This public hearing is now called back to order. If I can call in addition to Mr. Celestial, Mr. Garrido, Mr. San Agustin, Mr. Enrique Torres, and Mr. Tom Devlin. Resolution No. 40-34 (COR) is in support of passage of H.R. Bill No. 632 and S. Bill 283 which would extend medical care and pay compensation benefits to the clean-up veterans of Enewetak Atoll and their dependents. The bills mandate that these radiation exposed veterans would be entitled to the presumption that a veteran's disease was caused by radiation if the veteran was involved with the clean-up and developed one of the presumptive diseases. We will now accept testimony from Mr. Robert Celestial.

Robert Celestial:

Thank you again, Vice Speaker. My name is Robert N. Celestial. I'm a Sergeant, retired US Army Disabled American Vet. I was stationed in Enewetak from 1977 to 1980.

Slide 1 - And I would like to show some slides if it is ok. *(Slides from Mr. Celestial's testimony have been attached.)*

Slide 2 – And this is the bill H.R. 632 that Congresswoman Meng has introduced also with

Senator Al Franken.

Slide 3 – This is one of the detonations that was there at the Enewetak Atoll. If you notice the atoll is quite huge and actually Enewetak is east of us, about 1200 miles and they detonated 66 nuclear bombs from 1946 to 1962.

Slide 4 – This is Mr. Ed Blas and the young gentleman at the bottom, I forgot his name, but we were stationed there in Louj. We were called Loujanals and we still have that nickname today. And that is me on the left hand side. I was a heavy equipment operator. And we were tasked to take all of the post war debris from the detonations and place it in a big dome. And the dome was actually a detonation of a nuclear bomb.

Slide 5 – And that is how we went to work through LCUs and LSTs and that is how we got our mail. And this is the debris that we had to haul into the Runit dome.

Slide 6 – And I just wanted to show one of the detonations and all of the ships here that were called target ships.

Slide 7 – And this one is named after my wife Yvonne but seriously this was a detonation back on May 6, 1958 and I show this detonation, one of the surface detonations because this is the crater it created.

Slide 8 – And my task when I first got to Enewetak was to, actually we landed in this area, and to bring in and drain the whole entire crater. So that was part of our job in the beginning.

Slide 9 – And this is part of the Runit dome that we built and today I just found out from Mr. Garrido that it is still leaking right now and it is still highly contaminated.

Slide 10 – So this is the completion of the dome on Runit island.

Slide 11 and 12 – And I just wanted to show the two bills which were already presented.

And that concludes my presentation for that. However I would like to read something here in the National Research Book that was published in 2005. It is about ships decontaminated on Guam. On page 365, it said, “Records indicate that about 18 vessels were disbursed to Guam for decontamination. LCIs, LCTs, it said that no data indicated that radioactive material affected sea life or entered the food chains of residents of Guam. However on page 200, it said, “The committee concludes that available evidence does not show that the general population of Guam was subject to unwarranted radiation exposure resulting from decontamination of Navy vessels.” But however it did say “persons who have proof of their employment by federal agency or contractor in the process of decontaminating ships affected

by fall-out are already eligible for compensation as onsite participants.

So Apra Harbor, for anyone who participated in decontamination of these ships are not eligible. And I read that because I want to read you a letter. And this is very important for the other issue of the Agent Orange because in 2004 the Secretary of Energy wrote a letter to Congresswoman Bordallo on another letter they wrote to Congressman Underwood back in 2001 and what had happened was that they hired two contractors to write a report about me, that I wrote a report that Guam was contaminated. But in other words, they also said here, "we ask that contractors provide a list of illnesses that Mr. Celestial provided Congressman Underwood and review the data about radioactive material fall out in Guam." The information was summarized and presented to Congressman Underwood. The findings apply today and the reports are enclosed for your information. The Department of Energy does not have information about the release of radioactive materials into Guam waters from decontaminating Navy ships. That information is under the Department of Defense.

The reason I read this is because this was prior to this report. The Department of Energy didn't know that I had the declassified documents pertaining to the wash downs of the ships here on Guam. And so on the fight to continue on, even though they say there was no Agent Orange here on Guam continue to fight because this report really did a disservice for the people of Guam at the time because Mr. Underwood and the Congresswoman believed the Department of Energy that nothing happened, when it did happen. And then in 2004 I had to go and testify before the National Academy of Science and say that it did happen and they wrote in the book that it did. And so it is very important to understand, to continue the fight until we get to the end. And now we have a bill for Guam but as for the Enewetak veterans, a friend a mine died 5 years ago, Ed Blas, and he suffered tremendously. We were together in Enewetak together during the clean-up and he came out with heart disease, open heart surgery.

He had a stroke and his kidneys failed. He was on dialysis and then found out in the end that he died of cancer of the spine, spinal cancer. And so when I saw him at Naval hospital, I couldn't believe the deterioration of my friend. And it hurt really bad to see the way he passed away. He was a robust gentleman and to dwindle down like he was one of those prisoners from Auschwitz or something, that was something that I couldn't bear anymore to see. As an Enewetak veteran and also a member of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, we've had a lot of help through the American Legion of the VFW. They are writing letters to Congress to have this bill passed for the other veterans who need these benefits.

I was fortunate, if you could say, because when I left Enewetak I got sick and immediately, I was shipped to Walter Reed Medical hospital for treatment and found out there were other veterans from Louj and we were being tested because we had different diseases. And so over

the years and treatment, I was able to go before the medical board and I won in my medical board and they retired me with a disability and over the years the VA has upped my compensation. I was unfortunate to get sick but fortunate enough to get compensation. A lot of my comrades today got out and they are the ones that we are fighting for to get compensation. Because they passed a law for Atomic veterans that they receive compensation also but you had to be in Japan during the cleanup. You had to be actually at the detonation sites in Nevada or you had to be in the Pacific theater to receive compensation.

We were actually the ones that were on the ground zero. We were the ones who were super exposed and we were the ones who were left out. I thank you Vice Speaker and Senator Esteves and Senator Nelson. This is an important issue. There are very few of us that are left. By the grace of God, I'm still alive. I was diagnosed to die in 1996 believe it or not. Balboa Medical Center oncologist told me I only had 4 years to live and I came back with my wife to die and by the grace of God, I'm still here. Thank you and I do support Resolution No. 40-34 and thank you again senators and I believe and hope that both bills will be passed, Agent Orange and Enewetak clean-up. Thank you. Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Mr. Celestial and thank you for being our inspiration and for persevering through all of this. Thank you very much. Mr. Garrido.

Jose Garrido

Hafa Adai. Guahu si Jose Ulloa Garrido. Un Dangkulu'na Si Yu'osMa'åse'. Na tunueste Resolution gaigi pago lamasa. Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Vice Speaker Terlaje and Senator Nelson and Esteves. I was born in 1944 and after the war, possibly the entire people of Guam living in the coastal areas and in the jungle. I had to survive by subsistence living. I know this is an Enewetak resolution and I fully support the resolution but I also kind of want to relay perhaps association with what is happening in Enewetak during the atomic bomb testing. The people that were there like Mr. Celestial who had to go there and clean up a few of the contaminated debris that were there but those of us that were alive in Guam after the war like we were. We live in Asan. We live in Talofofu. We came out from the Manenggon Concentration Camp and we live in Talofofu and we lived in Asan. So as I was growing up. The only thing we were doing was hunting, fishing, and gathering. And there were hardly any jobs. So that's what we do. We go fishing, we go in the jungle pick breadfruit, anything you know to feed ourselves to feed our kids. And we grow chickens and all that.

We catch water from the rain. But little did we know that all through that time there was a person monitoring the radiation fall out whether it reached Guam and the person that was

doing that was surprised that the machine or the counter gag or counter that he as using was reading very high and the language of the military it was out of sight, meaning the needles gone and he tried to report that but he was forced to not to open the report it or and maybe the public can find out that we are receiving radiation from the atomic testing from bikini or Enewetak or whatever they call it. And so I remember even the whenever we want to cook we scoop water from the tånke or the 55 gallon drum that we usually cover it with a mosquito net or the wire screen but these now were water that were contaminated by radiation but we didn't know.

And we didn't know that the fish that we caught were contaminated. And we didn't know that the jungle from where we picked were contaminated and maybe it wasn't a high reading of radiation but the cumulative effect in 1946 to 1962 you can imagine that the majority of the people of Guam at the time who were alive and were living on the land were contaminated. They were suffering from radiation and the U.S. military at the time didn't feel obligated to even make a public announcement to the people to actually receive some kind of instruction on how to address the adverse effect of the radiation. They kept quiet basically. As a result I think many of our people are suffering cancer and high rate of thyroid cancer as you can see. My family has thyroid cancer and you know we suffer. All of these up to this point are all denied by the U.S. military today. And the people that were there are the servicemen that were there that would probably admit that the people of Guam at the time in 1940 imagine that I was 6 years old when they started the Enewetak.

I was 2 or 3 years old when they started the atomic bomb testing and I was a teenager when they stopped. And so I grew up drinking water there wasn't a lot of running water during the times it was basically you know Kalanlina'la' lanchuranch times that's how we live. And I don't know what to say or think this is a pretty good or actually this is nothing new I think. This has been fought before and all that were going to be fighting many times for this. I fully support it I hate talking about it. Because basically we were just not treated fairly, we were discriminated against, and it was just unfortunate that we were contaminated and we are suffering from it and I think I'm suffering from long term affliction of atomic radiation although I'm not suffering a lot I don't know why I may have a high degree of resistance to anything you know. I'm the kind of person that can eat anything and I have only one well never mined and that's the allergy the pollen. Other than that I believe I'm suffering from things I don't really know at this time. Maybe in 5 years I'll know that in any case I just want before I close, I just want to let you know in my job I'm a Historic Preservation Specialist and so part of my job is to read archaeological reports and several years ago I read a report from a archaeological survey done in Sāsayan. Sāsayan is a Marbo Cave area this is where the Nelson's were staying and the Sgambelluri's and several other basically families you know.

Now all kinds of people are probably down there. Several years ago they did an

archaeological survey and part of the survey is to determine the age of the artifacts that were found. But there was a language in the report that said when they submit the artifacts to a lab that does this kind of work the report came back that said couldn't really determine the exact age of the artifact because it appears the age is being affected by radiation from the fallout. They didn't say from Bikini fallout but from some kind of atomic radiation that create an adverse effect I think in the determination of the carbon dating of the artifact. That is still in the books. And I think that might give some credence to the idea that we were contaminated doing those things and it even affects not only Sāsayan if it affects Sāsayan if affects the entire Mangilao, Barrigada, and Guam and so there it is. Enewetak you poisoned Guam quite a lot so hopefully the veterans here on Guam and the people themselves who got contaminated can have at least some kind of justice from the United States. I don't want to ask this but even an apology from the United States of America to from coming up to late to save or to do something to those people that were suffering from radiation sickness. Thank you.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:

Mr. Garrido, thank you and if you could help us get that document I would appreciate it because what you have described is exactly the subject of another resolution that we had a hearing on couple weeks ago. It's going to be put on to the next session for vote to support Congress including Guam as a downwind recognizing Guam was downwind of the nuclear fallout from the Marshal. Islands testing. Okay? So I appreciate that very much. Mr. Devlin?

Tom Devlin:

Good evening Senators. My name is Tom Devlin. I'm a Combat Wounded Veteran from Vietnam. I'm also the Director of K57 VetTalk Radio Show Broadcasting. You all have been on the show. Well I was doing some research this week, in Senator Lee's office, on the second floor in the Legislature building. And the research I was doing I'm more familiar because of Vietnam with Australian Veterans and New Zealand Veterans and I had to work in their area, I had to do research with their veterans benefits and what those two countries doing for their veterans with respect to Agent Orange. And what I came across is that Australia had somewhat similar issues, I'm not an expert in atomic weapons or bombs but they had a similar issue with what's going on in this resolution which I support. Great Britain donated 3 atomic bombs in the country of Australia in the '50's and they had veterans in the military or army that were assigned to clean up in other things but they also had civilians that they were also assigned to do clean up and who also had medical effects.

They formed a committee to look into it. And they found out that they had to compensate their veterans and civilian employees that were in that area and also to date some of their families that they feel that some of the diseases were from atomic weapons. There were 3

atomic bombs detonated. And as much as we like to get an apology from the United States, I think Australian people would like to get an apology from Great Britain and it's not going to happen. It's just the way it is, it'll never happen. But even a lot of the veterans in New Zealand, a lot of New Zealand veterans who were in the military or the army they were actually assigned to help the Australians. Respect to where the atomic weapons were detonated it was New Zealand or Australia, those forces usually generally worked together.

So New Zealand had its own issues with Great Britain respected detonated atomic weapons and Australia but actually affected New Zealand veterans and maybe some New Zealand employees who were assigned. So this is something that we have to look into and what about the down winders? What about the down winders in Australia, their also having issues to date. I did the research this week and if you go on the website, you got to Veterans Affairs Australia it's about 50, 60 pages. And it will tell you it will say Great Britain atomic weapons you hit that then all of a sudden you find out that Great Britain detonated atomic weapons 3 of them in Australia and it leads you from one page to another and also little caviat there the Australians had a problem there but also New Zealand are affected who were assigned to help Australians having issues. That's all I have to say.

Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje:

Thank you very much Mr. Devlin. Mr. San Agustin?

Joe San Agustin:

Vice Speaker, senators. I thank you again for introducing this resolution; I am in favor of this resolution. I do not know of any individual that was involved in the cleanup; however I take the position that in understanding what had taken place in Enewetak, I must mention I was stationed in Okinawa Japan for twelve (12) years. And you know what the Japanese people have endured during their time. I want to kind of leads this into what I've seen because the Okinawan people are such great people however my total of twelve (12) years that I was stationed there I have come to experience many of them who has kids that were disabled, disfigured. Where I take this is that regardless of whether the service member had volunteered to serve or the service member was given orders to conduct cleanup, it becomes again the responsibility of the organization the Department of Defense, the Veterans organization to ensure just compensation to these individuals. I do not know what's worse, and I'm hoping I will never experience it: getting shot at, single bullet or machine gun, or exposure to radiation. And if I was going to pick one of the two, I prefer to pick the first one. Quickly gone; quick death; and not have to create kids or have kids that are going to suffer because of what I had during the event like the atomic bomb cleanup.

So in saying this I take the position that I support Bill 40-34 and senators like the other bill

before this, we need to master this, I am telling you this, I ain't going nowhere. I'm a citizen and a resident of Guam; I intend to carry this fight all the way through and anything that has to do with just compensation and benefits of veterans and families, I will tell you just knowing these kind of exposures lead to not just illness, discomfort, but it's also a very unjust to family members because it burdens the family members and no one can imagine. I could tell you that there's no compensation that will match the pain and suffering that these people go through. And that is why I always grill to the leaders and say we need to fight this till the very end. I'm not sure this is the right thing to say but I'm going to say it anyways: if the federal government is not willing to take care of our people, because they're our family, I think we should find some other ways and avenues to take care of them. I support Resolution 40-34, thank you very much.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:

Thank you very much Mr. San Agustin. Mr. Torres?

Enrique Torres:

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to express my support for this bill. To Vice Speaker and Senators Esteves and Senator Nelson. Again I am here with the intent of expressing why I feel that this bill is also deeply related to my family. My father, again, served in the civil service along Apra Harbor and NSD. So as you can see everything we feel was for the benefit for the defense of the country, the United States, our family members came up and took the challenges; we were tip of the spear now, we were tip of the spear then. For supplies and goods to fuel the war and any conflicts thereafter, shipments came through Guam; hazardous materials. And I did mention that earlier, five thousand (5000) barrels were shipped immediately to Guam because of its effectiveness. Where they ended up? Again it's in accounting process. You purchase something, the vendor supposedly has to have records and therefore its disbursement should have been recorded.

Where in the archives are those records? When it comes to the atomic, the compensation for atomic radioactive fallout, you have to also understand that this radiation fallout has a long shelf life; years, decades. Agent Orange, maybe less. As Mr. Garrido has stated, our fathers, mothers, brothers, uncles, their fathers and mothers, sisters, and brothers, were exposed to these downwind effects. Even Agent Orange. Would you believe that in Johnston atoll a ship was incinerating, that's what it was for, incinerating Agent Orange. And guess where it was distributing it? Up in through the stream, the jet stream, and the trade winds; we still have that constant flow of trade winds even today. So I am in support of the bill I mean this resolution and I'm also encouraging you that this fight is not just Agent Orange, not just radioactive exposure, it's all the injustices that our family, friends, people that have passed on. You know my father passed away, again untimely death, and my uncles and they served

this country well. They served in the armed forces and after that into the civil service. I applaud you for your efforts.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:

Thank you very much and thank you to all the panel. Are there any questions from Senator Nelson?

Senator Telena Nelson:

I just want to say thank you for taking the time and staying to testify. It has been a very informative briefing and Mr. Garrido if we could reach out to you and also get a copy of the archeological studies that would greatly help our case as well. Thank you very much everyone.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:

Thank you for being here Senator Nelson. Senator Esteves?

Senator Fernando Esteves:

Si Yu'os Ma'åse', thank you for coming out. Again I think you know where we all stand on this and I appreciate you taking the time. Thank you.

Jose Garrido:

The Committee. There is an ongoing investigation around Cocos Island why there is still a high reading of PCB or whatever other stuff that happened over there. I want you to, all of us I think are familiar with the information that had been disseminated quite recently that ships were brought over to Cocos Island from the atomic testing and they were washed there. But there's also a U.S. Coast Guard, I forgot the name whether it's Noran or Loran station, and they were using quite a lot of PCB oil on their transformers or whatever. But there is a, what seems to be an activity to find out more why the waters around, and the fish, around Cocos island after all these many years of being mitigated instead of decreasing in the reading of contamination, it is actually increasing. I didn't hear any clamor from the military to warn the people of Merizo and the island of Guam about eating fish. I do, I heard that they make mentioned you know "hey we're in a meeting, we're going to do something about it" but I don't think they're seriously treating this situation properly.

It's something that will affect the entire people of Merizo. They fish there, they eat the fish

there and now you got other people coming to Guam and they live up there and they fish every day and they eat those contaminated fish from Cocos island. You know my understanding right now is that in the near future you might be getting some information that there's a project that's going to develop with regards to surveying and studying why the PCB contamination around there was or still very high. I have a lot of relatives that are from Merizo and they've been eating fish since 1946. And so many of them have died, got relatives that have had cancer and died. I think it behooves this island to investigate and call for an oversight and not going to speak for any other agencies but I hope that the local legislature can actually invite the U.S. EPA, the Guam EPA for an oversight hearing and let's listen to what they have to say about what they're doing.

What are they doing you know? Believe me, there's a lot of cover up with the feds, not just our local government, the feds. And they've been covering up for a long time. I think it's time for them to open up and tell us the truth. What's going on you know? It's not just in Merizo even in the Asan reef. They dump their tons of chemicals and tons of ammunition just barely half a mile off of Asan; they're there, they're still there. Thank you, that's all I got to say.

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:

Thank you Mr. Garrido, you're correct and it's sometimes overwhelming because all over Guam we got advisory restoration boards to deal with areas. We've got warning issues given to Tanguissan area, for Agat, the whole Agat from the leaking of Orote dump or Orote landfill. I mean many, many events like Merizo like you said that's been known for many years but not as, you don't see the big effort to educate the community. You're correct. And so I agree, there's so many, there's so much more we can do and there's just many injustices that we need to address and you're right, thank you. Senator Nelson? So again thank you all for being here, for your patience, it really means a lot to us and for your perseverance. And thank you for your testimonies and Mr. Celestial thank you very much for your, I feel bad you have to fight your own fight you know but I'm glad you're still here to inspire us to help you. This concludes the testimonies on Resolution 40-34 (COR) and thank you very much. Public hearing is now adjourned; the time is 8:01, Si Yu'os Ma'ase'.

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.





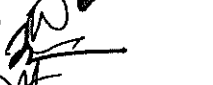




III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, author of resolution, hereby reports out Resolution No. 40-34 (COR), As Introduced, with the recommendation TO DO PASS.

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 40-34 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 
 B.J.F. Cruz 
 Thomas C. Ada 
 Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. 
 FRANK B. AGUON, JR. 
 Michael F.Q. San Nicolas 
 Telena Cruz Nelson 
 Joe S. San Agustin 
 Régine Biscoe Lee 

2017 FEB 22 PM 1:33 AM

RELATIVE TO ADVOCATING FOR THE INCLUSION OF VETERANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE CLEANUP OF ENEWETAK ATOLL AS RADIATION EXPOSED VETERANS FOR PURPOSES OF THE PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION OF CERTAIN DISABILITIES BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF *I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* (THE 34TH GUAM LEGISLATURE) FOR H.R. 632 AND S. 283, THE *MARK TAKAI ATOMIC VETERANS HEALTHCARE PARITY ACT*, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

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

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States Government and the Atomic Energy
2 Commission conducted nuclear tests in the South Pacific from 1946 to 1962; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Atomic Energy Commission detonated sixty-seven (67)
4 nuclear devices with a total yield of one hundred eight thousand four hundred ninety-
5 two point two (108,492.2) kilotons in or around the Marshall Islands; and

6 **WHEREAS**, no less than ten (10) of those detonations yielded between five (5)
7 to ten (10) megatons of radioactive material from the center of the explosion to the
8 height of between twelve (12) to fifty-five (55) miles into the jet-stream; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on October 31, 1952 (GMT), Operation Ivy was conducted on
10 Elugelab Island ("Flora") in the Enewetak Atoll, in which the first true thermonuclear
11 hydrogen bomb (a 10.4 megaton device) code named Mike was detonated, destroying
12 the entire island leaving behind a six thousand two hundred forty (6,240) foot across
13 and one hundred sixty-four (164) foot deep crater in its aftermath; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in ninety (90) seconds the mushroom cloud climbed to fifty-seven
15 thousand (57,000) feet into the atmosphere, and within thirty (30) minutes had
16 stretched sixty (60) miles in diameter with the base of the mushroom head joining the
17 stem at forty-five thousand (45,000) feet; and

18 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that thirty-five (35) percent of those who handled
19 nuclear waste at Enewetak atoll now suffer from some form of cancer. Several
20 veterans from Guam were part of the group of U.S. armed forces who participated in
21 the cleanup of Enewetak atoll during the period beginning on January 1, 1977, and
22 ending on December 31, 1980; unaware of the danger from the radiation exposure and
23 without protective gear, these military members moved debris, dirt, and other material
24 from the nuclear testing sites into a hole, and built a dome to cap it; and

25 **WHEREAS**, under the 1988 Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act it
26 is presumed that a veteran's disease was caused by radiation if the veteran was present

1 at a nuclear detonation, or some associated activities, and if the veteran developed one
2 of the presumptive diseases, regardless of the veteran's dose; however, cleanup of
3 Enewetak from 1977 to 1980 was not considered "present at a nuclear detonation" for
4 purposes of the Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the presumptive law listed thirteen (13) cancers as radiogenic:
6 leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia); multiple myeloma; lymphoma,
7 except Hodgkin's disease; primary liver cancer; and cancer of the thyroid, breast,
8 pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile duct, and gall bladder.
9 Cancers of the salivary gland and urinary tract were added in 1992 and bronchiolo-
10 alveolar carcinoma was included in 1999. In 2002, cancer of the bone, brain, colon,
11 lung, and ovary were added, bringing the total number of cancers considered
12 radiogenic under the presumptive law to twenty-one (21); and

13 **WHEREAS**, the regulations authorize the VA to provide medical care and pay
14 compensation benefits to confirmed onsite participants and dependents of onsite
15 participants in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device and
16 indemnity compensation to certain survivors; and

17 **WHEREAS**, a Veteran may be eligible for presumptive service connection
18 (SC) under 38 CFR 3.309(d) (38 U.S.C. 1112) if present at the test site during the
19 official operational period of an atmospheric nuclear test to perform official military
20 duties in connection with ships, aircraft or other equipment used in direct support of
21 the nuclear test; during the six month period following the official operational period
22 of an atmospheric nuclear test, presence at the test site or other test staging area to
23 perform official military duties in connection with completion of projects related to
24 the nuclear test including decontamination of equipment used during the nuclear test;
25 Service as a member of the garrison or maintenance forces on Enewetak during the
26 periods June 21, 1951, through July 1, 1952, August 7, 1956, through August 7, 1957,

1 or November 1, 1958, through April 30, 1959; or assignment to official military duties
2 at Naval Shipyards involving the decontamination of ships that participated in
3 Operation Crossroads; and

4 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 34th
5 Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, petition the United
6 States Congress to expand the Radiation-Exposed Veterans Compensation Act to
7 provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak
8 atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-
9 connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and be it further

10 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
11 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, advocate for the inclusion of Veterans who
12 participated in the cleanup Enewetak Atoll as radiation exposed veterans for purposes
13 of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of
14 Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes and to expressing the support of *I*
15 *Mina'trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (The 34th Guam Legislature) for H.R.
16 632 and S. 283, the *Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act*, introduced in
17 the United States Congress; and be it further

18 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
19 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
20 Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United States of America; to the
21 Honorable Orrin Hatch, President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Paul
22 Ryan, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable David Roe,
23 Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives; to the
24 Honorable Timothy Walz, Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S.
25 House of Representatives; to the Honorable Mac Thornberry, Chairman, Armed
26 Services Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Johnny

1 Isakson, Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable
2 Jon Tester, Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. Senate; to the
3 Honorable John McCain, Chairperson, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate; to
4 the Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Committee on Armed Services, U.S.
5 Senate; to the Honorable Grace Meng, Member of Congress, U.S. House of
6 Representatives; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress, U.S.
7 House of Representatives; to the Honorable Al Franken, Chairperson, Committee on
8 Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, U.S. Senate; to the Secretary of the
9 Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior; to
10 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs; to the Administrator of the Guam
11 Office of Veterans Affairs; to the Guam Veterans Commission; to Mr. Fred Schafer,
12 Managing Director National Commander, National Association of Atomic Veterans;
13 to Mr. Bob Kiltbau, Hawaii State Commander, National Association of Atomic
14 Veterans; to all the State and Area Commanders of the National Association of
15 Atomic Veterans; to Mr. Robert N. Celestial, Pacific Association of Radiation
16 Survivors President; to the Guam Office of Veterans' Affairs; and to the Honorable
17 Edward B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2017.

BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Speaker

REGINE BISCOE LEE
Legislative Secretary

Veterans share frustrations at hearing on Agent Orange, radiation resolutions

Kyla P Mora , kmora@guampda.com 2:33 p.m. ChT April 7, 2017



(Photo: Kyla P Mora | PDM)

Multiple residents offered oral testimony at a recent public hearing on Agent Orange contamination and radiation exposure, mostly on the same theme: frustration over Guam's leaders' inaction.

On April 4, the Guam Legislature's Committee on Culture and Justice convened a hearing to discuss Resolution 25-34, related to supporting the Fighting for Orange-Stricken Territories in Eastern Regions, or FOSTER, Act, and Resolution 40-34, related to recognizing the radiation exposure of Enewetak Atoll cleanup veterans and including them in the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act.

Robert Celestial, Pacific Association for Radiation Survivors president, was joined by Vietnam veterans and former military civil service personnel to testify about atomic radiation and Agent Orange exposure on Guam.

Frustration at lack of recognition was a common theme for many who testified.

Navy veteran and Yona resident Howard Collins, who served as assistant fire chief for 32 years after four years of active service, said he is tired "of being told there is no such thing as Agent Orange on Guam."

"We get these nice letters that are only good for the garbage cans. We're getting tired of this runaround," Collins said. "You're telling me I don't see something's wrong? What about all the civilians that worked at Naval Station? You're telling me I didn't see them load contaminated dirt and soil to take away from the base? We've lost I don't know how many people, and you're telling me I didn't see this stuff."

Collins said he's lost faith in leaders to help.

"They're talking about getting congressmen to help. I don't believe so," Collins said. "I've asked the congresswoman for help. I've been to her office many times."

On April 3, Guam Del. Madelaine Bordallo issued a letter to Comptroller General Gene Dodaro of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, asking for information about where the federal government stored, transferred and used Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

Bordallo also requested information about dioxin-contaminated hot spots and plans to remediate contaminated sites, including how much the Department of Defense has spent to date on site cleanup.

Many giving up

Even as investigations inch forward, however, some disillusioned veterans on Guam have stopped seeking assistance.

Guam Veterans Affairs Office Administrator Joe A. San Agustin said after only eight months in his current position, he has seen many give up.

"I'm finding that many of our vets have not come forth to file for benefits because they've lost faith in the system," San Agustin said. "We have the responsibility and duties to continue to fight these issues up to the very top so that we provide them with the care and benefits that they are entitled to."

San Agustin urged Vice Speaker Theresa Terlaje to include civilians affected by the toxic herbicide Agent Orange in any reparative measures taken. He also supports current investigations into Agent Orange on Guam.

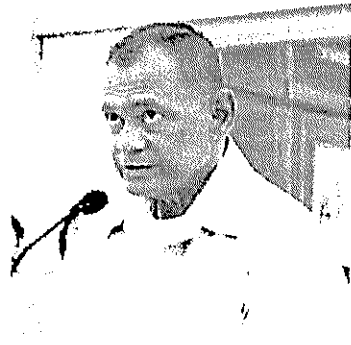
The hearing also brought to light insufficient veteran care and support on Guam.

In June 2013, Sen. Frank Aguon Jr. introduced Bill 134 to create a Guam Veterans Registry. The stated goal of the registry is to create an accurate database to provide veterans with current information on health care, benefits and activities. The registry was to be maintained and updated by the Office of Veterans Affairs.

However, the registry "has not been compiled, and there has been little to no effort to compile this registry," Terlaje said.

Advocate hopes for Guam survivors of US nuclear bomb tests to receive help

Manny Cruz | The Guam Daily Post 6 hrs ago



ADVOCATE: Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors President Robert Celestial is shown in this file photo. Post file photo

"You know what our decontamination process was back then? They (higher-ups) told us to jump in the ocean to wash ourselves off – that was our decontamination process." – Robert Celestial, advocate for radiation survivors

Radiation compensation advocate Robert Celestial said this year could be promising for Guam radiation survivors and veterans exposed to U.S. atomic bomb testing decades ago.

Earlier this year, Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo introduced Bill 197, which adds Guam to the list of "downwind states" included in the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, or RECA.

The measure, among many things, fully funds the medical expenses of people suffering from radiation exposure linked to the Department of Defense's radioactive bomb tests in the continental U.S. and the Pacific.

Locally, Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje is pushing just compensation for affected people through two separate resolutions that support the Senate's Mark Takal Atomic Veterans Healthcare Party Act, and the FOSTERS Act, which would provide Agent Orange status to Vietnam War-era veterans and civilians.

Between 1946 and 1962, the U.S. conducted 67 reported nuclear bomb tests in the Marshall Islands, east of Guam.

Celestial has been advocating for compensation for Guam veterans and civilians for more than a decade.

Celestial has also documented jet streams flowing from the Marshall Islands to Guam during that time, which carried radiation toward the Marianas.

Guam was also a stopping point for U.S. Navy ships coming from the Marshall Islands after detonations to decontaminate, according to Celestial.

"Our island and our people – were undoubtedly exposed," Celestial said at the National Association of Social Workers conference on March 29.

The Army veteran has first-hand experience with nuclear radiation.

Between 1977 and 1980, Celestial, alongside other Pacific Islander and Asian Army personnel, helped fill the U.S. military's Runit Dome in the Marshall Islands with nuclear waste and affected debris.

"You know what our decontamination process was back then?" he asked the NASW audience rhetorically. "They (higher-ups) told us to jump in the ocean to wash ourselves off – that was our decontamination process."

Many of his comrades have succumbed to their illnesses, like Ed Blas, whom Celestial said passed away four years ago.

"He was with me back then," Celestial said. "He had so many diseases: kidney failure, diabetes, spinal cancer. I know there are others from Guam who helped with the cleanup process. I hope they'll come to the public hearing on Tuesday."