

March 17, 2017 9:00 A.M. Public Hearing for Resolution Nos. 51-34 (LS) and 52-34 (LS)

Enrique Torres Testimony (1:07:00 time lapse)

“Good morning, everyone. Good morning madam chair. Good morning the rest of the body. My name is Enrique Torres; I’m from the village of Yoña. I come here on my own, as a private citizen. Remember this slogans or the battle cries as you may call, “The British are coming.” remember the “Alamo” remember “Lusitania” remember “Pearl Harbor” remember “The World Trade Center” remember “The Pentagon” and “the flight crash in Pennsylvania” Nowhere in history does anyone ever ask or ask us to remember “Guam” The occupation of Guam. The atrocities committed here. Nowhere else in the United States, when there where there’s are concentration camps. Nowhere else where there are properties taken away. Also the Jews, where their were in the process of being eliminating the trace of the planet, to genocide. The Spanish tried to do that to the Chamorros and during the occupation of the Japanese. I’ve I have looked at the war, videos and listen to my parents. These are real human rights violations. But then again human rights were here before you asking for you to help us with our human rights. Not our privileges, this is our human right. We’re asking you to help us with our human rights, not our privilege. So, the Governor, the leaders, my brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters, and referring also to my brothers and sisters in the continental United States of America, and to the rest of the world. Join us, join us with this appeal. Show us our solidarity. Don’t forget we also feel that the war reparation is still injustice. In many parts of the world, when it comes to human rights of the native inhabitants they are recognized in Canada, the tribe there is called the “First Nation” we are just asking that the Chamorro people of native descent or at least the belief in the culture belief in the tradition consider themselves to be Chamorro and after the fact that they were born here, their parents who were born here, their great grandparents were born here, so the aborigines in Australia. I was in the Philippines, just getting my teeth looked at, and I was listening to the discussion, they were in Filipino tagalog language, and it was between my dentist and his colleague, the plastic surgeon, they were talking about citizenship, on the United States citizenship wow I was really wanting to get into the discussion, so I kinda asked them to clarify what they were saying well they were saying you know after the war, World War II, they were asked to decide they wanted to become American citizen, decide, wow, and their fathers were in that, that responsible citizen to decipher the determination and they turned it down because they didn’t want to be considered brown Americans and they said, I don’t know but I am a brown American and I told them some of the privileges of an American citizen, not all and I hope one day that I get to be rewarded with what is due us, if it is to be a U.S. citizens, full fledged Americans, and also in that discussion, I know made that distinguish we got that American lots of freedom, we got liberties, we can own homes, and all that are our human statuses, civil rights, we live in a civilized society, and if you know the Philippines, you can see there’s from a third world country and maybe now it’s considered closer to the equivalent to the United States, so it was then we were talking well he so all of that and there’s still some issues right, “yeah we still have issues”, and he stated “ How old is the United States government? To look upon, and then I thought back and well they moved, they removed themselves from the British and they became self governing in 1776, so roughly two hundred and sixteen years, and he kinda of laughed and the Philippine government is only seventy six years old, yes we have corruption, not to say that the United States has no corruption, yes they are some violations of human rights and all the things you can come to realize, the United States are not really a, or is all built up to be, so they still have some more time to develop, time to change, change is what we are asking for, so

Guam, you are government leaders, give our people, Chamorro nation, First Nation, however you part of this second chance or move forward, rethink about, the native habitants, rethink what it is qualify for plebiscite, I am not an expert, but give us a choice, give us a dialog, rethink about it, and we want to be recognized in this global community, as self governing, madam chair I support this bill, this resolution, and you, in front of us our leaders, almost have eight hundred twenty five years, of experience, we don't look at you as young, Chamorros, or leaders or people who want to carry our fight forward, you are the ones who are here before the rest of us to bring us to the request, I applaud you for taking this opportunity to move our request forward, look amongst yourselves, look amongst deep in your hearts, deep within your ability to research, the ability to expert consultation throughout not just Guam, at the rest of the world, United Nations, do your due diligence for us, so in closing I say to Matthew, Patrick, and Nathan, my sons, your dad asks, would you make your choice for your life decisions but remember my legacy, as I remember my legacies of my ancestors, I supported the request, I support this bill, resolution 52-34, towards self determination, for as long as long as it takes, thank you very much."