

## For Immediate Release

Congressman Michael San Nicolas holds his first Facebook Live event. In a tribute to the late Ricky Bordallo, who pioneered the use of modern technology during his time to reach his constituents, Congressman San Nicolas appropriately held a “fireside chat” on Facebook to update the People of Guam about the progress and issues found during the first 33 days since he was sworn-in to office.

Below is a summary of the major topics discussed during the event. A full video can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanMichaelF.Q.SanNicolas>. If you have any issues retrieving the video or accessing the site, please let us know at [Michael.SanNicolas@mail.house.gov](mailto:Michael.SanNicolas@mail.house.gov)

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### Guam War Claims Act

- Our office has been in contact with Jennifer Bang, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Treasury. Statutory language was left out of the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act which prevents the United States Treasury from writing and disbursing checks to claimants whose claims have already been adjudicated and certified for payment. Language drafted by the U.S. Department of Treasury which will serve as a fix to the offending issue is undergoing the scrubbing process to guarantee no further delays to the disbursements of funds will occur. We anticipate the bill to be introduced before the end of the week. Congressman San Nicolas will be working with his colleagues on the Financial Services Committee, which has oversight on the U.S. Department of Treasury, as well as his colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to ensure the passage of the measure.
- To find out if your claim, or a loved one’s, has been adjudicated, the following site can be used to determine if the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission has already determined an outcome: <https://www.justice.gov/fcsc/final-opinions-and-orders-5>

### Department of the Interior

- Congressman San Nicolas announced his meeting with Assistant Secretary of Insular and International Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior, and his staff to discuss a myriad of issues and priorities:
  - Compact-Impact funding and formula development using census data;
  - Using his membership on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation within the Natural Resources Committee to ensure that Compact-Impact funding is adequately and fairly distributed among impacted jurisdictions;
  - Structuring U.S. policy/law to appropriately address our relationship with nations we enter Treaties with, specifically our neighboring island nations
    - Suggested idea to allow for Compact States to access U.S. capital markets to float their own bonds in the same way as the Territories

### H-2B Issue

- Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) lead in attempting to address the H-2A/B issue that plagues Guam and certain areas throughout the nation.

- Co-signed a letter with Governor Lou Leon Guerrero that will be *en route* to the White House seeking clarification and assurances that the recent removal of the Philippines from the list of eligible participating countries from the H-2B program by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will not impact the H-2B petitions qualified under the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act which allows continued access of workers from the Philippines connected to projects directly associated with the military build-up.
- Meeting scheduled at the end of this week with the Philippine Ambassador to the United States to determine if there is anything on their end that they can help, and what we can do collaboratively to address issues.

### **Cockfighting**

- Co-sponsored legislation with Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon to repeal the cockfighting ban impacting the Territories. She will be introducing this bill prior to the end of the week.
- On a different angle, we have put in a request to the Congressional Research Services asking whether Organically Guam is exempted from the recently passed measure that criminalizes and bans cockfighting in Guam.

### **Veterans Issues**

- Because no notes or documentation exist and/or were turned over to our office detailing the issues impacting our Veterans in the island addressed to our predecessor, we would need to start from scratch.
- Our office has met with various veterans and is now keeping track and documenting issues brought to our attention.
- Working with his colleague, Congressman Mark Takano, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, to address current and future issues.
- Congressman San Nicolas has agreed to take the lead in introducing legislation relating to Agent Orange.

### **Supplemental Security Income**

- Bill introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> day!
- Already secured support and co-sponsorship from Congressman “Kilili” Sablan (CNMI), Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security Chairman John Larson, and Ways and Means Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support Chairman Danny Davis

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