



Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina' Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan



Tina Rose Muña Barnes June Monthly Address

Buenas Yan Hafa Adai! May many of God's blessings be bestowed upon each and every one of you.

Today, June 28th, 2019 is War Survivors Remembrance day. Today, we honor our greatest generation, their sacrifice, strength, and courage, is the reason we are here today. They truly embody the spirit of our *CHamoru* people. The lessons they instilled in us, is the reason our people are empowered today. Those lessons, just like their sacrifices serve as a testament of the Strength and Resilience of our Island People.

As we approach our 75th diamond anniversary of our liberation, I want to say that it is only right that we do justice for our Greatest Generation. Along with our *Maga'Haga*, and in collaboration with the US Department of the Interior, the Department of Justice, as well as the Department of the Treasury, your local policy makers have come together to finally shed some light to a long-time injustice against our *manamko*'.

My office had drafted legislation, and through the dialogue with Senators Shelton and Castro, we had made the appropriate changes. The final bill which also incorporates the edits by the *Maga Haga's* policy advisors, is now with the Trump Administration.

Through our collaboration with our Federal Counterparts, we intend to overcome administrative barriers that will allow for the Government of Guam to get a list of Compensable Guam Victims that are entitled to an adjudicated award by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

Furthermore, because our local government is working with our Federal Counterparts, we aim for our legislation to allow for the facilitation of the World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, a Federal Program that our Government is willing to step in to facilitate. While we work hard to do right by our survivors, I would like to take the time to commend Congressman Mike San Nicolas for the strides he has made to correct an administrative error in previous legislations.

Congressman San Nicolas, in his capacity as an incoming freshman in Congress, has worked tirelessly and successfully to also do right by our survivors. For our local fix to a decades old program to work, I would like to point out that it is essential for his legislation to pass both the House and Senate and then garner the signature of our Commander in Chief. With the passage of Congressman San Nicolas' H.R. 1365, this would allow for our local government to be compensated from our earmarked Section 30 monies.





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For me, this was always about the People. While I understand this issue has been widely politicized historically, and even more so in the last weeks, I am committed to making sure we get some answers and solutions to this decades-old dilemma. With the support of my colleagues, our *Maga'Haga*, and the Congressman, I am confident that we can soon put this issue to rest.

In closing, let's all take the time to remember our *manamko* ' who suffered through the tragedy of war. I invite everyone to come down to the Guam Congress Building to reflect on the Wall of Strength in our lobby, listing the victims of WWII on Guam, or to take a visit to the Guam Museum to view the liberation exhibition.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.



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