



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



08/21/2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUAM LEGISLATURE RISES OUT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL INPUT

Hagatna, Guam – A motion was made today to rise out of the Committee of the Whole to continue discussions with stakeholders on Bill 181-35 which would compensate the survivors of World War II. This was done because the body, in light of conflicting and unfounded statements by Congressman San Nicolas, felt that additional input is needed.

Early this morning, Speaker Muña Barnes met with Governor Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Tenorio who shared that once Bill 181-35 is passed and signed into law, the Leon Guerrero/Tenorio administration intends to pay off the adjudicated claims before the end of the year.

During discussions in the Committee of the Whole, Mr. Tony Babauta, the Chief of Staff of the Leon Guerrero/Tenorio Administration presented documents demonstrating the months of hard work by our local Government to finally pay off the adjudicated claims of our local World War II survivors. Mr. Babauta stated that he will be providing the documents shared today with local media.

“36 years later, 11 failed bills later, we need to finally put an end to this injustice. If it is in our power to do right by our elders, we owe it to them” stated Speaker Muña Barnes. **“I thank the Leon Guerrero/Tenorio Administration for taking on this challenge with me. It is unfortunate that we will have to wait a little bit longer, but I will be working closely with the Leon Guerrero/Tenorio Administration to answer any questions my colleagues may have and hope that this Bill passes - so that we can finally give our greatest generation the closure they deserve while they are still with us”** she concluded.

Responding to the claims of Delegate San Nicolas that should this bill passes, it may hamper the passage of H.R. 1365 in the Senate, Speaker Muña Barnes asked the Delegate if there was anything to support this claim and if there was any member of the US Senate that he spoke to about this matter. In a roundabout way, the Delegate failed to provide anything concrete which would support his statements. He also stated that he takes on the responsibility to compensate our survivors but unless demonstrable progress is made, Speaker Muña Barnes intends to forge ahead with Bill 181-35 upon the passage of the Budget Bill.

-30-

For questions or comments, please contact Chirag Bhojwani, Communications Director at chirag.speakertmb@gmail.com

