

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
24-38 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje Tina Rose Muña Barnes Frank F. Blas, Jr. Chris Barnett William A. Parkinson Sabina Flores Perez Joe S. San Agustin V. Anthony Ada Vincent Anthony V. Borja Shelly V. Calvo Christopher M. Dueñas Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Jesse A. Lujan Sabrina Salas Matanane Telo T. Taitague	Relative to recognizing and honoring the late Honorable †Theodore “Ted” Sgambelluri Nelson, former Vice Speaker, six-term Senator, and longtime Guam educator and school administrator for his selfless dedication to public service and advocacy for a better quality of life for the people of Guam; and to further extending gratitude and deepest condolences to his family on his passing	2/24/25 5:07 p.m.	2/27/25 10:00 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 24-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*
Tina Rose Muna Barnes *TRM*
Frank F. Blas, Jr. *FB*
Chris Barnett *CB*
William A. Parkinson *WAP*
Sabina F. Perez *SFP*
Joe S. San Agustin *JSA*
V. Anthony Ada *VAA*
Vince A. Borja *VAB*
Shelly V. Calvo *Shelly*
Christopher M. Duenas *CD*
Eulogio S. Gumataotao *ESG*
Jesse A. Lujan *JAL*
Sabrina Salas Matanane *SSM*
Telo T. Taitague *TTT*

Relative to recognizing and honoring the late Honorable †Theodore “Ted” Sgambelluri Nelson, former Vice Speaker, six-term Senator, and longtime Guam educator and school administrator for his selfless dedication to public service and advocacy for a better quality of life for the people of Guam; and to further extending gratitude and deepest condolences to his family on his passing.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF**
2 ***I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS, on May 17, 1935, the late Honorable †Theodore Sgambelluri**
4 **Nelson, fondly known as “Ted,” was born as the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter**

1 Melquiades Torres Nelson and Laura Camacho Sgambelluri. The late Honorable †Ted
2 Nelson was a longtime Guam educator, a six (6)-term Senator, and Vice Speaker of *I*
3 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the Guam Legislature); and

4 **WHEREAS**, a former *Hagåtña* resident and later a resident of Mongmong-
5 Toto-Maite and then a resident of *Pågat*, Mangilao, former Senator †Ted Nelson
6 happily married the love of his life, †Gloria “Lola” Camacho Borja Nelson, and by the
7 grace of God they raised four (4) children and two (2) reared children: Gwendolyn
8 Marila Nelson Taimanglo; Theodore “Ted” Dwight Borja Nelson, Jr.; Glenn Nelson;
9 Rhonda Therese Nelson Calvo; Mary Wenty Adelbai; and Faik Erbelau; and

10 **WHEREAS**, with their growing family and abundance of love, the late †Ted
11 and †Gloria Nelson continued to help raise their twelve (12) grandchildren: Desiree
12 Taimanglo Ventura married to Jeffrey Ventura, Telena Monique Nelson, Laura Beth
13 Nelson-Cepeda married to Bryon Cepeda, Theodore Dwight Nelson II, Gloria
14 Asuncion Nelson San Agustin married to Andre’ San Agustin, Jose *Maga’låhi*
15 Nelson, Tatiana Marie Nelson, Juliana Marie Nelson, Seth Edward Calvo, Koyungil
16 Eden Wenty, Sarah Wenty Key, and Dr. Myra Wenty Adelbai Fraser; and their ten
17 (10) great-grandchildren: Vicente Jose Taimanglo, Lilia Grace Taimanglo, Aramiah
18 Gabrielle Cepeda, Giovanni Paolo Cepeda, Luca Salvatore Cepeda, Theo Raffaeli
19 Cepeda, Lola Milan Cepeda, Aila Vittoria Cepeda, Theodore Dwight Borja Nelson III,
20 and Jordan Wenty Key; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 1955, the late †Ted Nelson graduated from George
22 Washington High School (GWHS) in Mangilao; and he then pursued higher education
23 and attended the University of Guam where he earned his Associate of Arts Degree in
24 1957. Later, he went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree from Ohio State University in
25 1960; and in 1967, he earned a Master’s Degree in Supervision Education from the
26 University of Mexico; and

1 **WHEREAS**, from 1962 to 1964, late †Ted Nelson was transferred to serve in
2 the Republic of Palau, formerly a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,
3 with his wife, †Gloria, where they established and opened the first high school in
4 Koror City, Palau; and

5 **WHEREAS**, late †Ted Nelson returned home to Guam to continue his
6 longtime service as an educator and school administrator in Guam’s public school
7 system, where he taught Health, Physical Education, and Science at George
8 Washington Junior High School (GWJHS) and John F. Kennedy High School
9 between the years 1960 through 1962, and again from 1964 to 1965. He became the
10 Vice Principal of both George Washington Junior High School and John F. Kennedy
11 High School in 1967, and served as the Principal of George Washington Junior and
12 Senior High School from 1968 to 1971; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1971, †Ted Nelson in advocating for his students challenged
14 the Board of the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) during a special Board
15 meeting, and GDOE responded by suspending him from his duty as Principal of
16 GWHS. When the students found out about this, they created the “Student Action
17 Committee for Restoration of Mr. Ted Nelson,” an ad hoc group of student
18 government leaders and other students. On the morning of April 21, 1971, students
19 gathered in front of the school and were bedecked in red armbands and headbands
20 with “Nelson” printed on them to protest his suspension and did not attend classes
21 until Mr. Nelson was successfully reinstated; and

22 **WHEREAS**, throughout the 1970s, †Ted Nelson, continued his public service
23 to the island community as a Special Assistant to elected Republican Governor
24 †Carlos G. Camacho and later to Democratic Governor †Ricardo J. Bordallo; and

25 **WHEREAS**, with his continued growth in public service, †Ted Nelson and
26 Attorney †Joaquin C. Arriola ran as a team in the 1974 Gubernatorial Election, but
27 lost in Guam’s Primary Election that year. The loss did not disrupt †Ted Nelson’s

1 passion for policymaking, but proved to be instrumental in focusing his contributions
2 for the betterment of the people of Guam; and

3 **WHEREAS**, he served as the delegate from Mongmong-Toto-Maite to the
4 1977 Guam Constitutional Convention, where he also served as Secretary; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1982, †Ted Nelson ran for Senator of the Guam Legislature as
6 a Democrat and was elected to serve in the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd, and 23rd
7 Guam Legislatures. He served for a total of six (6) legislative terms, or twelve (12)
8 years, from the early 1980s to the late 1990s, where he chaired the legislative
9 committees on General Government Operations, Micronesian Affairs, Economic and
10 Agricultural Development, and Insurance; and was elected by his colleagues as Vice
11 Speaker in the 20th and 23rd Guam Legislatures from 1989 to 1991 and from 1995 to
12 1997; and

13 **WHEREAS**, during his terms as Vice Speaker and Senator, he authored
14 landmark and pivotal legislation which became public laws for the benefit of the
15 people of Guam, such as: Public Law 17-35, which declared the month of May as
16 “Senior Citizens Month” to express the public sentiment benefitting senior citizens
17 and celebrating a month-long observance; Public Law 17-81, which established a
18 human resources agency within the government of Guam to be responsible for the
19 coordination of manpower needs and the assessment of employment programs that fall
20 under the provisions of local and federal statutes; Public Law 20-182, which was
21 known as the “Toxic Substances Exposure Compensation Act of 1990,” to help
22 compensate the residents of Guam that are constantly being exposed to a large number
23 of dangerous chemical substances and mixtures; Public Law 22-115, requiring the
24 closure of the Ordot Landfill; Public Law 23-44, which amended the definition of
25 “Peace Officer,” and which bolstered the contingent of Customs Officers at our ports
26 of entry in an effort to boost the “War on Drugs” campaign; Public Law 23-105 that
27 established the Ethics Commission and prescribed standards of conduct for employees

1 of the government of Guam; and much more legislation to help our island and enhance
2 the quality of life of the people of Guam; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Vice Speaker †Ted Nelson demonstrated his commitment
4 to regional collaboration and leadership through his service in the Association of
5 Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), where he held key leadership roles, including
6 serving as Vice-Speaker during the 1994-1995 term, Vice President during the 1995-
7 1996 term, and continuing as Vice President during the 1996-1997 term until
8 December 31, 1996, representing Guam with dedication and working to strengthen
9 ties among and advance quality of life in Pacific Island nations ; and

10 **WHEREAS**, among his many accomplishments, †Ted Nelson was elected to
11 serve as the first *CHamoru* President of the South Pacific Games Council in 1977; and
12 he was also elected as the first *CHamoru* director of the first Soapbox Derby, and the
13 first *CHamoru* secretary of a Tokyo Association; established the Dededo Flea Market;
14 established the first JROTC program on Guam at GWJHS; and the first marching
15 band in a Guam high school; and

16 **WHEREAS**, even outside his role as an elected official, he continued his
17 leadership, actively participating and proactive in community public hearings and
18 government and community events to ensure that the policies being discussed
19 benefitted the island; and he continued to be a champion for an equitable government
20 for the people of Guam, and was an outspoken advocate for the “Land for the
21 Landless” and for people who had lost their land to land takings; and was steadfast
22 and active in his support of his wife Lola’s work for the students in the Guam
23 Department of Education, the utility ratepayers of Guam, and for justice for the Lola
24 Cola retirees; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the late Vice Speaker †Ted Nelson was a pillar of strength, faith,
26 and humility, whose unwavering love for his family and community left an indelible
27 mark on all who knew him; the rock of his family—a man who embraced forgiveness,

1 spoke only with kindness, and lived with an unshakable positivity that was deeply
2 rooted in the lessons he carried from the trials of war; and despite his passing at the
3 age of eighty-nine (89) on February 10, 2024, his legacy of courage, faith, and
4 selflessness endures through the values he instilled in his loved ones, his lifelong
5 devotion to doing what is right, and the countless sacrifices he made for others; and he
6 will always be remembered not only as a dedicated public servant and a member of
7 the greatest generation, but as the heart and soul of his family, a man who taught them
8 to thank God every day, be humble, and above all, to “pray-pray-pray”; now therefore,
9 be it

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*
11 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihselaturan Guahan* and the people
12 of Guam, recognize and honor the late Honorable †Theodore “Ted” Sgambelluri
13 Nelson, Vice Speaker, six-term Senator, and longtime Guam educator and school
14 administrator for his selfless dedication to public service and advocacy for a better
15 quality of life for the people of Guam; and, does further extend its heartfelt gratitude
16 and deepest condolences to his family on his passing; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
18 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
19 the same be thereafter transmitted to the family of the late Honorable †Theodore
20 “Ted” Sgambelluri Nelson; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
21 *Maga'hågan* *Guåhan.*

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF MONTH 2025.**

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

V. ANTHONY ADA

Speaker

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

SABRINA SALAS MANTANANE
Legislative Secretary