

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2026

H. J. R. 24- 16

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To recognize and acknowledge the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the Guam-CNMI ESGR State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women and to thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 17th through August 21st, 2026 as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week”.

1 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life in
2 this great Commonwealth is indelibly dependent on our ability to support the men
3 and women that serve and maintain a constant vigilance in order to protect our
4 freedoms and the American way of life; and

5 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body, representing the people of the
6 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, recognizes and commends the
7 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee
8 and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our
9 service men and women and to thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their
10 utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 17th

1 through August 21st, 2026 as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week”;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Guam-CNMI State Committee for the Employer Support of
4 the Guard and Reserve, through its volunteers, provides services and assistance and
5 comfort and peace of mind to members of the National Guard and Reserve so they
6 can focus on their military mission without worrying about their civilian jobs at
7 home; The Guam-CNMI ESGR State Committee has serviced members serving the
8 Guard and Reserve as well as their employers a number of 3,800 Volunteers hours
9 during fiscal year 2025 and currently this fiscal year 2026 as of date, 2,600 hours;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) was
12 established in 1972, marking this year as the 54th Anniversary since its inception as
13 an office under the Department of War; and

14 **WHEREAS**, it was established to promote cooperation and understanding
15 between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to
16 assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee’s military
17 commitment; and

18 **WHEREAS**, ESGR understands the unique talents and skill set Guard and
19 Reserve Service members can bring to the civilian workforce and to make this
20 arrangement work, both parties must be aware of their rights and responsibilities

1 under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994
2 (USERRA); and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Guam-CNMI State Committee for the Employer Support of
4 the Guard and Reserve, one of the 54 state committees, was established in 1997,
5 marking this year as the 29th Anniversary since its inception; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Guam-CNMI State Committee for the Employer Support of
7 the Guard and Reserve, through its volunteers, provides services and assistance and
8 comfort and peace of mind to members of the National Guard and Reserve so they
9 can focus on their military mission without worrying about their civilian jobs at
10 home; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Guam-CNMI State Committee for the Employer Support of
12 the Guard and Reserve serves more than 3,000 Service Members in the Reserve
13 Components on Guam, Saipan, Rota and Tinian, to sustain harmonious
14 environments with employers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, members of the Guard and Reserve and their civilian employers
16 form an alliance essential to the security of our Nation; these brave men and women
17 perform critical roles at home and abroad and continue to serve around the world
18 to ensure our freedom; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the National Guard and Reserve forces comprise nearly half of
20 our nation's military strength and are essential to America's national security; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Reserve Component forces stand ready to answer the call to
2 serve, whether serving alongside active duty counterparts all across the globe or
3 responding to humanitarian crises at home and abroad; and

4 **WHEREAS**, employers provide critical support to members of the National
5 Guard and Reserve allowing Citizen Warriors to serve whenever the Nation calls,
6 often foregoing financial gain and making sacrifices in the process; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the members of the National Guard and Reserve continuously
8 serve our country with distinction as they are deployed overseas in support of the
9 global war on terrorism; and

10 **WHEREAS**, private and public sector employers of Guardsmen and
11 Reservists play a vital role in supporting our troops by ensuring that their service-
12 member employees are mission-ready and focused when called to duty; and

13 **WHEREAS**, these employers make significant sacrifices on behalf of our
14 Nation, as Guard and Reserve members may be deployed at a moment's notice and
15 for months at a time, leaving their private and public employers without their
16 valuable skills and services as they serve abroad; and

17 **WHEREAS**, private and public employers of National Guardsmen and
18 Reservists provide a sense of comfort to service members as they serve overseas,
19 ensuring job security upon their return home; and

20 **WHEREAS**, ESGR has promoted and facilitated a strong culture of mutually
21 beneficial relationships between employers and their military employees, thereby

1 enabling members of the Guard and Reserve to respond quickly to state disaster
2 emergencies and national military necessities knowing they have a secure civilian
3 career after their service; and

4 **WHEREAS**, employer support is stronger than ever, more than 54 years after
5 President Richard Nixon authorized the Secretary of the then Department of
6 Defense to establish the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard
7 and Reserve; and

8 **WHEREAS**, our nation is in debt to the Citizen Warriors departing the
9 comforts of home to ensure our freedoms remain intact; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the United States of America pays special tribute to the
11 commitment of dedicated and supportive employers who continue to make service
12 in the Reserve Components possible;

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of
14 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
15 Legislature, the Senate concurring, hereby recognizes and acknowledges the
16 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee
17 and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our
18 service men and women by recognizing the week of August 17th through August
19 21st, 2026 as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week”; and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk

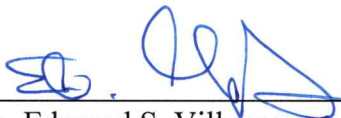
1 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint
2 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a copy to Cathy Gogue,
3 Guam-CNMI ESGR State Chair; Joann Aquino, ESGR CNMI Area Chair;
4 Brigadier General Karin Watson, The Adjutant General, Guam National Guard;
5 Brigadier General Matthew Gebhard, Commanding General, 9th Mission Support
6 Command, U.S. Army Reserve; Colonel Charles Douglas, Assistant Adjutant
7 General, Guam Army National Guard; Colonel Veronica Reyes, Commander,
8 254th Air Base Group, Guam Air National Guard; Colonel Mildred Grey-Theriot,
9 Commander, 624th Regional Support Group, U.S. Air Force Reserve; Captain
10 Jessica Worst, Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector
11 Guam; Commander William Reade, Commanding Officer, Navy Reserve Center
12 Guam; Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Guerrero, Commander, 44th Aerial Port
13 Squadron, U.S. Air Force Reserve; Lieutenant Colonel Esther Guard, Commander,
14 624th Aerospace Medicine Flight, U.S. Air Force Reserve; the Honorable David
15 M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the
16 Honorable Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of
17 Representatives, 119th United States Congress; Edward C. Camacho, Special
18 Assistant, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs; and the Honorable Karl R.
19 King-Nabors, Senate President Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
20 Legislature.

Prefiled:

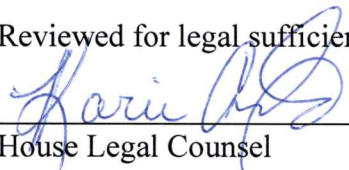
Filed: 7/24/2024

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 7-24-26