

Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2015

H. Res. 19- **30**

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To support and advocate the establishment of a National Guard unit in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body seeks to support and advocate the
2 establishment of a National Guard unit in the Commonwealth of the Northern
3 Mariana Islands that will possess a multitude of capabilities necessary to meet the
4 array of traditional, irregular, catastrophic and disruptive threats to America and
5 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands both at home and abroad; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2014
7 (H.R. 3301-83, SEC.515), required the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress
8 the findings on the feasibility of establishing National Guard units in America
9 Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); and

10 **WHEREAS**, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) has completed its study,
11 dated August 19, 2015, on the feasibility of stationing National Guard units in
12 American Samoa and the CNMI and concluded that establishing National Guard
13 units in both territories is feasible; however, major steps are necessary to reach that
14 end state; and

WHEREAS, before any National Guard units are established in either jurisdiction, the executive branches of the respective territories, in coordination with the Department of Interior, must ensure the necessary authorizations for a militia are enacted in territorial law; and

WHEREAS, Public Law No. 13-32, “Northern Mariana Islands National Guard Act” that was enacted on the 25th day of November 2002, was a local enabling legislation creating a National Guard for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, since the CNMI has laws in place that support the establishment of an organized militia, the remaining obstacle to overcome is to amend numerous definitions within Titles 10, 32 and 37 of the U.S. Code for any newly established units; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard is a unique and essential element of the U.S. military, founded in 1636 as a citizen force organized to protect families and towns from hostile attacks; today’s National Guard Soldiers hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training part time, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard’s Mission is to serve both community and country; their versatility enables them to respond to domestic emergencies, overseas combat missions, counterdrug efforts, reconstruction missions and more; the Guard always responds with speed, strength and efficiency, helping to defend American freedom and ideals; and

WHEREAS, as a Guard Soldier, their primary area of operation is their home state; any governor or the president himself can call on the Guard at a moment's notice; typically Guard Soldiers live at home, where they can be near friends and family while holding civilian job; and

WHEREAS, the ability to support civil authorities at all levels of government in responding to domestic emergencies, where military manpower, assets, and capabilities must be used to save lives or property, secure communities, or mitigate consequences or recover from major disaster; and

WHEREAS, these missions are accomplished through emergency-relief support during natural disasters such as flood, earthquakes, forest fires, typhoons; search and rescue operations; support to civil defense authorities; maintenance of vital public services and counter-drug operations; and

WHEREAS, these soldiers exemplify a unique blend of civilian and military skills that enable the National Guard to conduct a wide spectrum of civil-military missions; and

WHEREAS, a local National Guard unit will provide not only employment opportunities for our residents but also provide enhanced security forces in this time of global uncertainty; and

WHEREAS, the National Guard unit will be an important component in our local ability to respond expeditiously and effectively in times of emergency and natural disasters, therefore the public safety and welfare are greatly served by the creation of a Commonwealth unit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House supports and strongly advocates for the establishment of a National Guard unit in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 114th United States Congress; the Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, President Pro Tempore, 114th United States Congress; the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress, 114th United States Congress; Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Senate President, Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan; the Honorable Joey P. San Nicolas, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan; the Honorable Efraim M. Atalig, Mayor of Rota; and the Honorable Jerome K. Aldan, Mayor of the Northern Islands.

Prefiled: Sept. 18, 2015

Date: 09/18/15

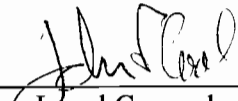
Introduced By: Rep. Angel A. Demapan

Ralph n. Yumul
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Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large signature over the 'Rep. Angel A. Demapan' line and other signatures below.

Reviewed by:



House Legal Counsel