

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR HAGÅTÑA, GUAM 96910 U.S.A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2014-05

RELATIVE TO DECLARING GUAM HISTORY AND CHAMORRO HERITAGE DAY A HOLIDAY.

WHEREAS, only two of the 11 days the government of Guam observes for reflection, commemoration, or celebration are of local significance; and

WHEREAS, not a single day among the 11 holidays is dedicated to the commemoration of our history and the celebration of our culture and heritage; and

WHEREAS, in line with the Governor's education agenda to proliferate the arts and humanities, we must take every step to encourage every citizen, especially our young, to respect, learn, know, and teach our great history and the contributions of our people and our culture to the world. And how can we preach respect for Guam's history and the culture of the Chamorro people if, in the observance of our most solemn and celebratory occasions, not a single day is pledged to Guam herself; and

WHEREAS, before a decade ago, the first Monday in March was observed as 'Discovery Day.' This was an opportunity for the people of Guam to commemorate the history of the island from the time of the Spanish 'discovery' of the island. While this is a significant marker in our history, it is by no means an observance of the complete breadth of our history and culture, which started thousands of years before the Spaniards, and continues hundreds of years after their occupation; and

WHEREAS, it is our hope that added attention given to our history and culture can influence more discussion of our identity, more writing about our



story, more painting, sculpting and weaving about our customs, more research into the lives of our ancestors, and more pride in our potential as a people; and

WHEREAS, Title 1 Guam Code Annotated, Section 1000(c) provides: "In addition to the holidays specified in Subsection (a) of this Section, *I Maga' Låhen Guåhan* may declare by Executive Order additional non-permanent holidays for special purposes.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAYMOND S. TENORIO, *I Maga' Låhen Guåhan, para pa'go,* Acting Governor of Guam, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby declare Monday, March 3, 2014, a government of Guam holiday called *Guam History and Chamorro Heritage Day.* I encourage all citizens of Guam on that day and every day they can:

- To speak with their children about our rich history;
- To encourage their children to live by the Chamorro culture by embracing the core values of *respetu*, *chenchule'*, *inafa'maolek*, *yan man'aguaiya* respect, reciprocity, community, and love for one and all;
- To support Chamorro self-determination;
- To venerate those who have died with prayer and *fangingi* all elders they come across in their lives; and
- To grow up to become mothers and fathers who strengthen family with these same values and reverence for our history.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagatña, Guam, this 26th day of

February, 2014.

RAYMOND S. TENORIO

I Maga Låhen-Guåhan, para pa'go Acting Governor of Guam