

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

**Transmitted via email to: [speaker@guamlegislature.org](mailto:speaker@guamlegislature.org)**

July 12, 2023

**HONORABLE THERESE M. TERLAJE, Speaker**

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Guam Congress Building  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**Re: Bill No. 82-37 (LS) - AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 7120.2, 7120.5, 7160(e), AND 7161(f) OF CHAPTER 7, TITLE 16, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALLOWING REPUBLIC OF KOREA VETERANS AND DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS RECIPIENTS TO QUALIFY FOR GUAM VETERAN LICENSE PLATES; AND TO ALLOW MORE DOCUMENTS TO BE USED FOR VETERAN QUALIFICATIONS**

*Håfa Adai* Madame Speaker,

Bill No. 82-37 grants access to veteran license plates to Republic of Korea (“RoK”) soldiers who fought alongside the U.S. military during the Vietnam War and subsequently acquired U.S. citizenship.

The Vietnam War was the second longest war in U.S. history. South Korea sent approximately 320,000 troops to fight alongside the U.S. in Vietnam, the largest contingent of any U.S. ally. Other U.S. jurisdictions have recognized these South Korean troops as veterans and given them access to veteran license plates. Our Administration fully supports Bill No. 82-37, expanding the definition of *veteran* to include RoK veterans for the purpose of granting our brothers-in-arms, who subsequently took an oath of allegiance to the United States, access to veteran license plates, a small gesture recognizing their contribution to our island and our nation, and the values and ideals they have embraced as Americans.

The bill further authorizes a unique license plate designation for recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of our nation’s highest award for heroism or extraordinary aerial achievement. As our nation continues to build and grow, it is important that we take every opportunity to honor our national heroes, and reflect on the sacrifices they made to ensure the freedoms we enjoy today. For these reasons, I sign Bill No. 82-37 (LS) into law as **Public Law 37-28**.

*Senseramente,*

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
*Maga'hågan Guåhan*  
Governor of Guam

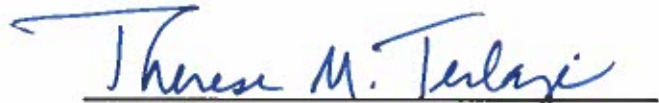
Enclosure: Bill No. 82-37 (COR) nka P.L. 37-28

cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam  
Compiler of Laws

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2023 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN***

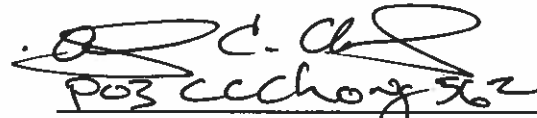
This is to certify that Bill No. 82-37 (LS), "AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 7120.2, 7120.5, 7160(e), AND 7161(f) OF CHAPTER 7, TITLE 16, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALLOWING REPUBLIC OF KOREA VETERANS AND DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS RECIPIENTS TO QUALIFY FOR GUAM VETERAN LICENSE PLATES; AND TO ALLOW MORE DOCUMENTS TO BE USED FOR VETERAN QUALIFICATIONS," was on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023, duly and regularly passed.

  
Therese M. Terlaje  
Speaker


Attested:

  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 30<sup>TH</sup> day of JUNE 2023, at 6:57 o'clock P.M.

  
Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'håga's Office*

APPROVED:

  
Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero  
*I Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Date: 7/12/2023

Public Law No. 37-28

RCVD AT CENTRAL  
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2023-19467  
Jessica Dydas

***IMINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2023 (FIRST) Regular Session**

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**Bill No. 82-37 (LS)**

As amended by the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning; and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
William A. Parkinson  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Roy A.B. Quinata  
Telo T. Taitague  
Thomas J. Fisher  
Joanne Brown  
Chris Barnett  
Frank Blas, Jr.  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Therese M. Terlaje

**AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 7120.2, 7120.5, 7160(e), AND 7161(f) OF CHAPTER 7, TITLE 16, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALLOWING REPUBLIC OF KOREA VETERANS AND DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS RECIPIENTS TO QUALIFY FOR GUAM VETERAN LICENSE PLATES; AND TO ALLOW MORE DOCUMENTS TO BE USED FOR VETERAN QUALIFICATIONS.**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds  
3 that, according to the current definition of a veteran in the qualifications for veteran

1 license plates, Republic of Korea (RoK) soldiers who served with the U.S. Forces  
2 during the Vietnam War and have become U.S. citizens, and those who have  
3 received the Distinguished Flying Cross are not included under the category, making  
4 it so that those who have received these honorable and prestigious titles are unable  
5 to qualify for veteran license plates. RoK veterans and those who are recipients of  
6 the Distinguished Flying Cross have bravely fought on our behalf and are more than  
7 deserving of all the benefits that can be provided to them, especially license plates  
8 that denote their service to our country. The fact that these veterans are excluded  
9 from this basic benefit is a transgression that needs to be remedied as soon as  
10 possible. This matter, especially for RoK veterans, is of the utmost concern as,  
11 according to the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs, the number of RoK veterans  
12 remaining on the island is five (5). This issue needs to be addressed as soon as  
13 possible in order to prevent the injustice of not honoring those who bravely fought  
14 for us and our country.

15 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also finds that states like California, New York,  
16 Pennsylvania, and Arkansas, as well as our Nation’s Congress, have taken steps to  
17 address the exclusion of RoK veterans. Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives  
18 passed a resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization  
19 Act (NDAA), which recognizes the contributions of Korean and Korean-American  
20 veterans, and introduced H.R. 366, the Korean American VALOR Act, which, if  
21 passed, would grant health care and medical benefits to these veterans. States like  
22 California and Pennsylvania also provide veteran license plates to Korean veterans,  
23 and states like Arkansas and New York have unique veteran license plates that  
24 properly denote their status. *Guåhan* needs to follow the examples of these states  
25 and our House of Representatives in regards to recognizing and honoring our Korean  
26 veterans.

1            *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further finds that documents, such as the National  
2 Guard Bureau 22 (NGB22) Armed Forces Retirement Certificate and Armed Forces  
3 Statement of Personnel Record are not included in the documents that can be used  
4 to qualify as a veteran, making it inconvenient for some veterans to qualify for the  
5 status.

6            With these reasons in mind, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to amend the  
7 definition of a veteran in order to allow Republic of Korea soldiers who fought  
8 alongside the U.S. during the Vietnam War and recipients of the Distinguished  
9 Flying Cross to receive veteran license plates, as well as, to update the list of  
10 documents that can be used to qualify as a veteran. With this legislation, these  
11 veterans will finally be able to receive something they should have been entitled to  
12 in the first place.

13            **Section 2.** § 7120.2 of Chapter 7, Title 16, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby  
14 *amended* to read as follows:

15            **“§ 7120.2. Veteran License Plates.**

16            (a) The purpose of this Section is to provide a veteran license  
17 plate(s) for veterans who reside on Guam.

18            (b) Definitions. The term as used in this Section is defined as  
19 follows:

20            (1) Veteran, as it applies to this law, means a person who  
21 served in the active duty military service in the U.S. Army, U.S. Air  
22 Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps or U.S. Coast Guard; also the  
23 Army or Air National Guard or active reserve component of the Army,  
24 Air Force or Navy, and a Republic of Korea (RoK) soldier who fought  
25 alongside the U.S. military during the Vietnam War and has acquired  
26 U.S. citizenship, and who was discharged or released under conditions  
27 other than dishonorable. Additionally, it means a person who served

1 during World War II in the Guam Combat Patrol, Wake Island  
2 Defenders, Guam Militia or Civilian Scouts.

3 (c) Application.

4 (1) Any person who is a veteran, verified by the Department  
5 of Defense 214 form (DD214), National Guard Bureau 22 (NGB22),  
6 Armed Forces Retirement Certificate, Armed Forces Statement of  
7 Personnel Record, or who otherwise is qualified under Subsection  
8 (b)(1) of this Section and certified by the government of Guam Veterans  
9 Affairs, and is the registered owner or lessee of a passenger vehicle  
10 registered with the Department of Revenue and Taxation, or who makes  
11 application for an original registration or renewal registration of any  
12 such vehicle, may apply to the Motor Vehicle Division of the  
13 Department of Revenue and Taxation for a veteran license plate(s),  
14 which shall be affixed to the passenger vehicle for which registration is  
15 sought in lieu of regular license plates.

16 (2) The Motor Vehicle Division shall transmit a copy of all  
17 DD214 forms or other proof of Veteran status submitted pursuant to  
18 this Section to the Office of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of  
19 updating the Guam Veterans Registry no later than thirty (30) days after  
20 the date of acceptance by the Motor Vehicle Division.

21 (A) Transmission of forms may be made by electronic  
22 means over a secured network as prescribed by the Office of  
23 Technology and the Office of Veterans Affairs.

24 (B) The Office of Veterans Affairs shall have the  
25 authority to adopt regulations to implement and administer the  
26 provisions of this Section and ensure the confidentiality of  
27 Veteran information.

1 (d) Color and Design. A veteran license plate shall be the same  
2 standard size and shape as a regular passenger vehicle with the additional  
3 features as follows:

4 (1) Below the line 'GUAM USA,' will be the word  
5 'VETERAN' (in black lettering) bordered on the left by the United  
6 States Flag and on the right by the Guam Flag;

7 (2) On the next line, in the middle, will be the license plate  
8 number (in blue lettering) in alpha numeric format designating branch  
9 of service and numerical sequence, such as A001 (Army), AF050 (Air  
10 Force), N022 (Navy), MC033 (Marine Corps), CG006 (Coast Guard),  
11 NG310 (Army or Air National Guard), R711 (Army, Air or Naval  
12 Reserves), GCP001 (Guam Combat Patrol), WD007 (Wake Island  
13 Defender), GM019 (Guam Militia), CS042 (Civilian Scout), DFC001  
14 (Distinguished Flying Cross), or RoK001 (Republic of Korea veterans).  
15 For a qualified person with a disability, as defined under Title 16, Guam  
16 Code Annotated, § 7120.1, the veteran license plate shall display the  
17 International Symbol of Accessibility in the same size as the letters and  
18 numbers on the plate.

19 (3) Below the license number, will be a line reserved for decal  
20 entries denoting recipients of medals of valor, combat duty or disabled  
21 person's symbols. Such entries shall include: 'DISTINGUISHED  
22 SERVICE CROSS,' 'SILVER STAR,' 'BRONZE STAR,'  
23 'DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS,' 'PURPLE HEART' OR  
24 'COMBAT WOUNDED,' or other equivalent awards.

25 (e) Fee. The fee for the issuance of a veteran license plate shall not  
26 exceed the fee charged for a similar license plate for the same class of vehicle.

1 (f) Issuance. A veteran license plate(s) shall be issued only to the  
2 registered owner or lessee of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed.  
3 Registration for a veteran license plate shall be limited to four (4) vehicles per  
4 veteran. ”

5 **Section 3.** § 7120.5 of Chapter 7, Title 16, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby  
6 *amended* to read as follows:

7 **“§ 7120.5. Special Recognition Veterans License Plate.**

8 (a) The purpose of this Section is to provide a special recognition  
9 veterans license plate for active duty members and veterans of the United  
10 States Armed Forces who are recipients of a military award for:

11 (1) acts of valor and have been awarded a Medal of Honor,  
12 Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Navy Cross,  
13 Air Force Cross, Silver Star, or the Bronze Star w/ “V” device; or

14 (2) wounds received in combat action, and have been awarded  
15 the Purple Heart medal. Persons eligible for the special recognition  
16 veterans license plate must reside on Guam and own a motor vehicle  
17 registered to be operated on Guam’s streets and highways.

18 (b) Application. Applications for special recognition veterans  
19 license plates shall be submitted to the Motor Vehicle Division of the  
20 Department of Revenue and Taxation, subject to the following:

21 (1) A recipient of a military award described in Subsection (a)  
22 of this Section must provide verification of the award received by  
23 providing a Department of Defense 214 Form (DD214), National  
24 Guard Bureau 22 (NGB22), Armed Forces Retirement Certification,  
25 and certification from the Government of Guam Veterans Affairs  
26 Office.



1                   (2) A resident of Guam who is the registered owner of a  
2 passenger vehicle currently registered with the Department of Revenue  
3 and Taxation, but desires to exchange the current license plate on the  
4 vehicle for a special recognition veterans license plate, or who makes  
5 application for an original registration or renewal registration of any  
6 such vehicle, may apply for a special recognition veterans license  
7 plate(s), which shall be affixed to the passenger vehicle for which  
8 registration is sought in lieu of regular license plates.

9                   (3) Numerical Sequence of License Plates. Forty-five (45)  
10 days after enactment, all eligible persons interested in obtaining a  
11 special recognition veterans license plate shall register with the Guam  
12 Veterans Affairs Office and provide a copy of their DD Form 214,  
13 National Guard Bureau 22 (NGB22), Armed Forces Retirement  
14 Certification, or Armed Forces Statement of Personnel Record. The  
15 registration list shall be used to determine the numerical sequence of  
16 the license plate to be issued, based on the date the award was made to  
17 the recipient by the U.S. Department of Defense or equivalent federal  
18 agency. Thereafter, the numerical sequence of license plates shall be  
19 made according to the date of application.

20                   (c) Color and Design. A special recognition veterans license plate  
21 shall be the same standard size and shape as a regular passenger vehicle  
22 license plate. The type and style of the special recognition veterans license  
23 plate shall be determined by the Director of the Department of Revenue and  
24 Taxation and the Administrator of the Guam Veterans Affairs Office, in  
25 consultation with the Guam Veterans Commission.

1           (d) Fee. The fee for the issuance of a special recognition veterans  
2 license plate shall not exceed the fee charged for a regular license plate for the  
3 same class of vehicle.

4           (e) Issuance. A special recognition veterans license plate shall be  
5 issued only to the eligible registered owner of the vehicle on which they are  
6 to be displayed. Registration for a special recognition veterans license plate  
7 shall be limited to two (2) vehicles per recipient. However, the numerical  
8 sequence of the license plates for the second vehicle shall come from the batch  
9 that is available after the initial registration period described in Subsection  
10 (b)(3) of this Section. The fee for additional plates shall be the same as for a  
11 personalized license plate.

12           (f) Surviving Spouse. The surviving spouse will be able to continue  
13 the use of the special recognition veterans license plates after the veteran  
14 spouse's death, provided he/she does not remarry and remains as the surviving  
15 spouse of the eligible recipient, by submitting applicable verifying documents  
16 to the Department of Revenue and Taxation, a copy of the spouse veteran's  
17 death certificate, a certification from the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs,  
18 and paying the applicable registration fees."

19       **Section 4.** § 7160(e) of Chapter 7, Title 16, Guam Code Annotated, is  
20 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

21           “(e) (1) The annual license and registration fee in § 7160(a) shall  
22 be waived upon the initial issuance and the subsequent renewal of the vehicle  
23 license and registration for:

24                       (A) any Veteran determined by the U.S. Department of  
25 Veterans Affairs (USDVA) to be one hundred percent (100%)  
26 disabled or individually unemployable due to military service

1 connected injuries, with certification from the Guam Office of  
2 Veterans Affairs;

3 (B) the spouse, legal guardian, or surviving spouse, as  
4 defined in § 67101 of Chapter 67, Title 10, Guam Code  
5 Annotated, and as authorized by § 4B101 of Article 1B of  
6 Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, and to Gold Star  
7 parents who are eligible pursuant to § 7120.3(b) of this Chapter;

8 (i) eligible persons in Subsections (A) or (B)  
9 shall verify their status with a military identification card,  
10 to include the DD Form 214, DD Form 1173, DD Form  
11 2765, National Guard Bureau 22 (NGB22), Armed Forces  
12 Retirement Certificate, Armed Forces Statement of  
13 Personnel Record, or other accepted forms used to verify  
14 eligibility status and certified by the government of Guam  
15 Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA);

16 (ii) the eligibility period for persons in  
17 Subsection (B) shall be consistent with §§ 4B103, 4B104,  
18 or 4B105 of Article 1B of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code  
19 Annotated, and the eligibility period for Gold Star parents  
20 shall be the same as the eligibility period for a surviving  
21 spouse; and

22 (C) the recipients of at least one of the following  
23 military awards: the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service  
24 Cross (U.S. Army), the Navy Cross (U.S. Navy and Marine  
25 Corps), the Coast Guard Cross (U.S. Coast Guard), the  
26 Distinguished Flying Cross (U.S. Air Force), the Silver Star, the  
27 Bronze Star with “V” Device, or the Purple Heart Medal.

1                   (2) The fee shall be waived for one (1) non-commercial  
2 passenger vehicle, which includes sedans, coupes, pick-up trucks,  
3 motorcycles, and station wagons manufactured primarily for the  
4 purpose of carrying passengers, and including those passenger cars  
5 pulling other light trailers, registered to the Veteran, or eligible persons  
6 applying for benefits under this Section.

7                   (3) A document issued by the USDVA or a U.S. military ID  
8 card, with certification from the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs,  
9 which certifies the disability rating, must be furnished to the  
10 Department of Revenue and Taxation in order to waive the annual  
11 Motor Vehicle License and Registration Assessment.”

12           **Section 5.** § 7161(f) of Chapter 7, Title 16, Guam Code Annotated, is  
13 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

14                   “(f) The Street Light Fund Fee in this Section shall be waived upon  
15 initial issuance and subsequent renewal of vehicle license and registration for  
16 any Veteran determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
17 (USDVA) and with certification from the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs to  
18 be one hundred percent (100%) disabled or individually unemployable due to  
19 military service connected injuries.

20                   (1) The fee shall be waived for one (1) non-commercial  
21 passenger vehicle, which includes sedans, coupes, pick-up trucks,  
22 motorcycles and station wagons manufactured primarily for the  
23 purpose of carrying passengers, and including those passenger cars  
24 pulling other light trailers, registered to the Veteran, or legal guardian  
25 applying for benefits under this Section.

26                   (2) A document issued by the USDVA or a U.S. military ID  
27 card and a certification by the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs, which

1 certifies the disability rating, must be furnished to the Department of  
2 Revenue and Taxation in order to waive the annual Street Light Fund  
3 Fee.”

4 **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any  
5 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not  
6 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without  
7 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are  
8 severable.

9 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.