

## Public Law 26-136

### MINA'BENTE SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2002 (Second) Regular Session

#### Bill No. 349 (COR)

As amended.

Introduced by:

L. A. Leon Guerrero

V. C. Pangelinan

J. T. Won Pat

J. F. Ada

T. C. Ada

F. B. Aguon, Jr.

J. M.S. Brown

E. B. Calvo

F. P. Camacho

M. C. Charfauros

Mark Forbes

L. F. Kasperbauer

K. S. Moylan

A. L.G. Santos

A. R. Unpingco

#### **AN ACT TO RENAME THE AGAT PUBLIC LIBRARY, “THE MARIA RIVERA AGUIGUI MEMORIAL LIBRARY.”**

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

**Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the tremendous contributions the late Maria Rivera Aguigui has made throughout her forty (40) years of teaching in the Guam Public School System in the Villages of Sumay and Agat. Long before there were equal rights for women, long before it was popular for women to work outside the home, there was Maria Santos Rivera Aguigui, who defied great obstacles to make a difference for the children of Guam.

The late Maria Rivera Aguigui attended high school in Hagåtña, traveling to and from Agat on the weekends. She graduated from high school and then attended night and summer classes at the Territorial College, earning a teaching certificate in 1926. She began her teaching career at the age of nineteen (19).

The late Maria Rivera Aguigui survived the years of occupation, attending to her children as well as the many children encamped in Manengon and Paasan. During World War II she took care of her five (5) children while her husband, Jose, was incarcerated in a Japanese prison camp. She showed immense bravery, surviving strife and desperate conditions.

After the War the late Maria Rivera Aguigui continued to work in rebuilding the public school system by collaborating with other local educators. She returned to Agat, with a group headed by the late Marcial A. Sablan. She labored proudly, guiding and imparting her cultural and professional training to many of the children in a war-torn community. She was instrumental in establishing the library system in the post-war Agat Elementary School, now known as the Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School. She collected books and magazines from the U.S. military that were stationed on Guam in the aftermath of the War. Throughout her years of teaching, she worked tediously to encourage young students to explore and travel throughout the World through the pages of history books and travel magazines. Her

methodology of teaching young children to read was unique by her talent of immersing the children into the settings of their reading materials.

The late Maria Rivera Aguigui retired from the Guam Public School System, now the Department of Education in 1967. On her retirement, she was honored by community leaders for her service to the children of Guam. Her retirement years were spent tutoring young children to read. She was very active in community and church activities, affiliating herself with the Confraternity of Christian Mothers at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Agat. "Mrs. Aguigui," as she was affectionately known by hundreds of her former students, lived at her home in Agat surrounded by her children, grandchildren and children of her former students, until her death on February 16, 2002.

The former Maria Santos Rivera married Jose Aguigui and lived in Agat. They were blessed with eight (8) children. Maria Santos Rivera Aguigui passed away on February 16, 2002. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes and acknowledges the many contributions "Mrs. Aguigui" has made to the Island's children and to the Guam Public School System. In light of her years of service and dedication to the children, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* wishes to commend and dedicate the Agat Library as the Maria Rivera Aguigui Memorial Library within the Guam Public Library System.

**Section 2. Name Change.** The Agat Public Library located on Fr. Follard St. adjacent to the Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School shall be renamed the Maria Rivera Aguigui Memorial Library.

**Section 3. Sign Placement.** The Guam Public Library is hereby directed to place a suitable sign on the exterior wall of the library in Agat indicating the name change.

**Section 4. Severability.** *If* any provision of this Law or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Law are severable.