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### A TRIBUTE TO OUR FIRST NURSES

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, to begin the story of the pioneer, local nurses of the Northern Mariana Islands, one must go back to the late 1930s and early 1940s, to the *tiempon Hapones* or Japanese times in the Marianas. In those days nursing was one of the few professions open to our local women and so attracted attention. But the realities of the work meant that only those whose hearts, minds, and bodies were strong could meet the arduous challenges and strict discipline nursing required. It is believed that Mrs. Rosa Blanco Camacho, now almost ninety, is the only one of these pre-war nurses alive today.

World War II changed everything. The Marianas were the site of some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. There were thousands of military and civilian casualties. Makeshift field hospitals had to be hastily built, and young local women--and men--were quickly enlisted to assist military medical personnel in caring for the wounded and dying. On-the-job field training for these local nurses and corpsmen was the order of the day. Besides the challenge of learning how to take care of the wounded, these local recruits faced a more basic obstacle: they had to learn how to communicate in English. Few American servicemen spoke or understood Japanese, and few, if any, knew the local Chamorro or Carolinian languages.

They faced tasks unlike anything they had seen before; and the hours were grueling. From Monday to Sunday the nurses worked on at the hospital sites. Only on Sundays were they packed onto trucks and allowed to return to spend time with their families and the rest of the civilian population, which had been gathered up by the military and encamped at Camp Susupe.

When the war ended in 1945, the U.S. Navy built a permanent hospital on Maturana Hill, Saipan, where the local nurses were employed and which served both the military and civilian population. The Navy also built a leprosarium on Tinian with three local nurses. The U.S. also began to offer more formal training for the nurses from the Northern Marianas. Some of those from Saipan and Rota were sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital School of Nursing in Guam. When this training facility closed in 1952, those nurses who were in the middle of their studies were sent to the Trust Territory School of Nursing in Chuuk. Later, that school was relocated to Pohnpei, then to Palau, and then in the late 1960s to Saipan. The final move was to the Marshall Islands in 1986. Despite these frequent moves, over the years the Trust Territory School of Nursing graduated many students from all the Trust Territory districts, including the Marianas District.

When the U.S. Department of the Interior assumed administration of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1962, the U.S. Navy closed its hospital on Maturana Hill and the local nurses who worked at the aging naval hospital gladly transferred to the brand new Dr. Torres Hospital on As Terlaje Hill on Saipan. Dr. Torres Hospital was a civilian-run, eighty-four bed inpatient and outpatient care facility where nurses could, with seniority and patience, develop a specialized practice, in surgery or obstetrics, for example.

The population in the Northern Mariana Islands was growing now and there was a corresponding growth in the demand for nurses. Health centers on Tinian and Rota had been built and were expanding. And public health dispensaries were opened in some villages on Saipan, all of them staffed by nurses.

Nursing remained one of the few professions open to women. It still had its attractions: a regular salary, the status that the nurse's uniform conveyed. But at its heart nursing also remained--and remains--grueling work that demanded strength of mind and body, an attention to detail and self-discipline.

We, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, appreciate and salute the following nurses, who served from 1944 to 1978, for their professionalism, courage, and service:

Dolores Reyes Agulto  
Joaquin Santos Aguon  
Jesus Castro Aldan  
Jose Palacios Aldan  
Josepha Castro Aldan  
Merced Deleon Guerrero Aldan  
Vicente Matagolai Aldan  
Estefania Rabauliman Amirez  
Dionisia Atalig Taitano  
Lucia Villagomez Arizapa  
Elena Camacho Arriola  
Jesus Saimon Arriola  
Magdalena Demapan Arriola  
Maria Kokure Arriola  
Maria Benavente Atalig  
Maria Hocog Atalig  
Rosina Ayuyu Atalig  
Rosario Imamura Atalig  
Rosario Cabrera Attao  
Teresita San Nicolas Attao  
Rosa Litulumar Ayuyu  
Carmen Nekai Babauta  
Maria Lizama Babauta  
Roberto San Nicolas Babauta  
Urbano Crisostimo Babauta  
Teresita Atalig Barcinas  
Lucia Castro Barcinas  
Sylvia Barcinas  
Felisa Chargualaf Basa  
Trinidad Arriola Benavente  
Maria Attao Bermudes  
Maria Pura Tagabuel Billy  
Rita Kotomor Billy  
Olympia Selepeo Borja  
Petra Hoashi Borja  
Rosita San Nicolas Borja  
Alejandro Reyes Cabrera  
Ana Torres Cabrera  
Angelica Muna Cabrera  
Anita Torres Cabrera  
Herminia Pangelinan Cabrera  
Jose Manibusan Cabrera  
Magdalena Brel Cabrera  
Maria Duenas Cabrera  
Maria Dela Cruz Cabrera  
Victorina Blas Cabrera  
Salomae Hocog Calvo  
Clara Taman Camacho  
Dolores Benavente Camacho  
Estefania Flores Camacho  
Fermina Mendiola Camacho  
Lucia Leon Guerrero Camacho  
Namiko Ketebengang Camacho  
Rita Duenas Camacho  
Rosa Ada Camacho  
Rosa Blanco Camacho  
Ana Songsong Castro  
Carmen Moses Castro  
Daniel Pangelinan Castro  
Loretta Mesngon Castro  
Maria Manibusan Castro  
Ruth Albert Castro  
Taeko Elizabeth Kumangai Castro  
Antonia Taimanao Celis  
Maria Muna Celis  
Rita Sablan Celis  
Antonio Santos Cepeda  
Juan Cruz Cepeda  
Rosa Manibusan Cepeda  
Ana Maria Gogue Charfauros  
Ramona Seman Chong  
Carmen Attao Concepcion  
Irmia Benavente Cox  
Conrado Deleon Guerrero Crisostomo  
Ana Kokure Dela Cruz  
Jesus Ogo Dela Cruz  
Francisco Palacios Deleon Guerrero  
Gustav Acosta Deleon Guerrero  
Mariana Camacho Deleon Guerrero  
Anunciacion Cruz Demapan  
Justina Rdiall Demapan  
Luis Cepeda Demapan  
Micaela Sablan Demapan  
Juanita Duenas Diaz  
Maria Mendiola Diaz  
Elisa Maratita Dim  
Elizabeth Naputi Dudley  
Ines Cruz Duenas  
Margarita Attao Duenas

Monica Camacho Duenas  
Estefania Atalig Dumale  
Luis Osomai Elameto  
Amania Mechaet Elidechedong  
Vicenta Lizama Evangelista  
Mary Farley  
Rosa Tenorio Fejeran  
Rosa Maliti Fejeran  
Rita Castro Flawau  
Lydia Flores Fleming  
Lorenza Mendiola Garcia  
Vicente Guerrero  
Maria Esteves Halstead  
Carmen Wesley Hamilton  
Hasmid Haro  
Ana Ogo Hocog  
Felisisima Ada Hocog  
Maria Ayuyu Hocog  
Guadalupe Reyes Hofschneider  
Maria Manibusan Igitara  
Andres Taisacan Igisaiar  
Lucia Seman Iriarte  
Carmina Weilbacher Jack  
Berthilia Camacho John  
Ensel John  
Engracia Aldan Johnson  
Carmen Olopai Kaipat  
Damiana Olkeriil Kaipat  
Diego Litulumar Kaipat  
Francisco Litulumar Kaipat  
Isaac Borja Kaipat  
Natividad Dela Cruz Kaneshi  
Ana Igisaiar Kileleman  
Neiar Kolios  
Violet Laird  
Consolacion Limes Laniyo  
Lourdes Olopai Laniyo  
Mariano Repeki Laniyo  
Maria Taitano Lieto  
Teresita Pialur Limes  
Hermana Ling  
Daniel Mettao Lisua  
Dionicio Mendiola Lizama  
Joaquin Reyes Lizama  
Juana Hocog Lizama  
Maria Ada Lizama  
Soledad Mesngon Lizama  
Carmen Mendiola Lizama-Torres  
Susana Rogopes Macaranas  
Vivian Nee Adamson Malmstrom  
Magdalena Sablan Manahane  
Milagro Hocog Manglona  
Magdalena Manglona Manglona  
Delfina Villagomez Manibusan  
Donicia Rasiang Marciano-Hosono  
Francisco Acosta Masga  
Maria Cruz Masga  
Nathania Maui  
Martha Muna Mendiola  
Bernadita Reyes Mercado  
Juan Itibus Mettao  
Likiak Kun Mongkeya  
Lorenza Ilo Mongkeya  
Carmen Santos Muna  
Isidro Camacho Muna  
Vicenta Santos Muna  
Jose Naog  
Isidro Nekai  
Rosa San Nicolas Norita  
Dominina Fitial Olopai  
Gregoria Fitial Omar  
Elizabeth Atalig Paeda  
Maria Indalecio Palacios  
Maria Taman Palacios  
Milagro Sablan Palacios  
Remedio Santos Palacios  
Rita Taman Palacios  
Dolores Cepeda Pangelinan  
Jose Basa Pangelinan  
Juan Basa Pangelinan  
Magdalena Terlaje Pangelinan  
Maria Aldan Pangelinan  
Maria Fitzgerald Pangelinan  
Maxima Cruz Pangelinan  
Paul William Perry  
Rafaela Odoshi Perry  
Maria Toves Quitugua  
Remedio Naog Quitugua  
Viviana Osomai Rabauliman

Casimira Manglona Ramos  
Lourdes Maliti Rangamar  
Dolores Cruz Rasa  
Consolacion Sablan Rasiang  
Fuana Remeliik  
Apolonia Rengechel  
Angelina Sablan Reyes  
Joaquina Pangelinan Reyes  
Rosario Taman Rios  
Maria Borja Roberto  
Angela Muleta Romolor  
Pedro San Nicolas Rosario  
Rosa Benavente Royal  
Takeshi Aloka Royal  
Vicente Faibar Rubuenog  
Ana Ayuyu Sablan  
Daniel Magofna Sablan  
Dolores Reyes Sablan  
Margarita Mendiola Sablan  
Olympia Reyes Sablan  
Petra San Nicolas Sablan  
Ramona Cabrera Sablan  
Rita Diaz Sablan  
Rosalia Tenorio Sablan  
Fidelia Sablan Salas  
Margarita Villagomez Salas  
Rosa Manibusan Salas  
Isabel Manibusan San Nicolas  
Juana Manibusan San Nicolas  
Dolores Apatang Santos  
Isabel Esteves Santos  
Maria Camacho Santos  
Maria Arriola Santos  
Maria Luisa Blanco Santos  
Martha Cabrera Santos  
Carlos Rapagau Satur  
Esteban Nepaial Satur  
Guillermo Litulumar Saures  
Lourdes Mettao Saures  
Maria Benavente Sedmik  
Antonia Rabauliman Seman  
Isabel Jones Seman  
Margarita Benavente Seman  
John Frank Skilling  
Teresita Wabol Skilling  
Cresencia Maratita Songao  
Francisco Maratita Songao  
Mary Grace Lejjena Songsong  
Maria Asuncion Stoll  
Carmen Maratita Suzuki  
Margarita Somol Tagabuel  
Gisina Songao Taimanao  
Gloria Ramos Taimanao  
Marcelina Atalig Taitano  
Sabina Rivera Taro  
Lino Pangelinan Tenorio  
Maria Hattori Tenorio  
Natividad Cruz Tenorio  
Rita Sablan Tenorio  
Soledad Takai Tenorio  
Elena Litulumar Teregeyo  
Enriqueta Peter Teregeyo  
Maria Reyes Thompson  
Dirruchei Terry Tmakiung  
Jovita Blanco Tomokane  
Antonia Cabrera Torres  
Francisco Ada Torres  
Maria Jones Torres  
Elizabeth Sablan Torres-Untalan  
Rita Songao Toves  
Sophia Olopai Towai  
Consolacion Faisao Tudela  
Margarita Cabrera Tudela  
Remedio Bermudes Tudela  
Maria Sali Udui  
Isabel Camacho Villagomez  
Margarita Aquininog Villagomez  
Lourdes Santos Waki  
Josepha Arriola Weilbacher  
Donicia Pialur Ythamar  
Paul Joseph Ythamar