

Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library



Marianas Variety

The Local & Regional Newspaper

Guam
Edition

Vol. 08 No. 213

©2013 Marianas Variety

Monday • July 15, 2013

www.mvguam.com

75¢

Decolonization today

(First of a two-part series)

By Mar-Vic Capurangan
marvic@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

ON JULY 21, Marine Corp Drive will be filled with parades to mark the day the U.S. Marines took Guam in a bloody 1944 battle that liberated the island from the Japanese forces during World War II.

Sixty-nine years since Guam's liberation, political leaders are

"Our journey will never be complete unless we undertake to resolve our political status and to decolonize Guam. ... We must renew our determination to take the necessary steps that will define our political relationship with the United States, and to give the people of Guam the political dignity that they deserve."

— Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo



again seeking liberty — this time for self-governance.

"Our journey will never be complete unless we undertake to

resolve our political status and to decolonize Guam," Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo said during her congressional address

before the 32nd Legislature on May 30.

"We must renew our determi-

DECOLONIZATION continued on page 2

MVG READER POLL

Q: How do you plan to watch this year's Liberation Day Parade?

A: I'll be there in person. I wouldn't miss it!

B: I can't be there but I'll watch it on television.

C: What parade?

Cast your vote at
www.mvguam.com

Q: How do you feel about the "three strikes" law?

A: Good. It sends a strong message to habitual criminals and will make Guam safer. **64%**

B: Not so good. It takes away judicial discretion, and will exacerbate the overcrowding at our prison. **36%**

Total votes: 80
As of 10 p.m. July 14

INSIDE

LIFESTYLE

MOSA'S OPENING
A NEW LOCATION



Page 14

SPORTS

FROOME DEFENDS
YELLOW JERSEY
ON TOUR STAGE 15

RIDERS set off on the 15th stage of the Tour de France on Sunday, the longest of the race.

Page 26

LISTEN

Catch today's headlines ON AIR through our radio station partners:

HIT RADIO 100

MegaMixx
101.5 FM

KPRC
KPRC.COM

Broadcast partner:

PBS GUAM
KSTP Channel 12



In this Saturday, July 6 photo, a North Korean army soldier, left, and South Korean army soldiers stand guard in the North Korean side of Panmunjom, which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War. Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, said a repeat of April's provocative North Korean rhetoric is "likely." AP

'More North Korean provocation likely'

By Frank Whitman
frank@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

RESPONDING to questions from reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday, Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of the U.S.

Pacific Command, said a repeat of April's provocative North Korean rhetoric is "likely."

"If you take a look back at history through several regimes in North Korea, they have a strategy of provocation, or a cycle of

provocation," he said. "They institute a provocation either against South Korea or against the region or against the United States, where they raise the rhetoric level, get everybody really all worked up, and then they try

to bring you to a dialogue that allows them 1) to continue in power, and 2) ... to extract some deal out of it. We see this cycle going over and over, over time. So what's changed over that

NORTH KOREA continued on page 2

STAY CONNECTED
STAY INFORMED

POST COMMENTS
SEARCH ARCHIVES

www.mvguam.com



Won Pat asks Congress to address Guam war claims

By Louella Losinio
louella@mvguam.com
Variety News Staff

SPEAKER Judith Won Pat has joined Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo and other officials in support of S. 1237, the Omnibus Territories Act.

The measure was heard before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources over the weekend.

Won Pat was invited to submit testimony on the measure and urged Congress to act quickly on Guam war claims, which was first raised by her father in his capacity as Guam's first delegate to Congress in 1973.

Every delegate since then has raised the issue of war reparations in the U.S. Congress.

Won Pat also told senators that the number of surviving members of "Guam's Greatest Generation," who endured the pain and suffering of an occupied land by enemy forces during World War II some 69 years ago, lessens with each passing year.

"Please do not wait for dozens more to die before they, and those who have gone before them, are recognized and acknowledged as



Speaker Judith Won Pat has urged Congress to act quickly on Guam war claims, which was first raised by her father in his capacity as Guam's first delegate to Congress in 1973. Variety file photo

loyal and patriotic Americans," Won Pat said in her testimony. She added, "This coming July 21, 2013, our island community will celebrate its 69th Liberation Day Parade. We will honor our WWII survivors and celebrate our country's men and women in uniform from each military branch. Honorable gentlemen and ladies, take this

occasion to grant the remaining few, the parity and recognition of a grateful nation."

The Speaker also reminded Congress that the U.S. has compensated other claimants affected by WWII. For instance, U.S. Public Law 100-383 provided a provision to pay restitution to civilian Japanese American Citizens

and Nationals in America who were interned during the conflict.

"In 2009, President Barack Obama established the WWII Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with nearly \$200 million in funds to compensate Filipino soldiers who fought

alongside American soldiers," Won Pat said.

"Moreover, in the peace treaty with Japan at the end of WWII, the United States government promised to pay any future claims of persons who endured the sufferings of WWII at the hands of Japanese forces, including claims from Guamanians," she added.

Decolonization...

continued from page 1

nation to take the necessary steps that will define our political relationship with the United States, and to give the people of Guam the political dignity that they deserve," she added.

17 colonies

Guam is one of the 17 remaining colonies in the post-colonial period.

"The [United Nations] made an aggressive statement this year – that they want to rid the world of colonialism," said Decolonization Commission Executive Director Edward Alvarez, who attended the UN decolonization meeting in Ecuador in May.

"For the first time in over 20 years, a U.S. delegate showed up at the decolonization meeting," Alvarez said.

That's a good start, he said, but Guam can't get too excited too soon, Alvarez said.

"When we see the UN and the U.S. send a delegation to Guam, that's when we get excited. Hopefully, that would start the whole process," he added.

Guam looks to its sister territory, Puerto Rico, which is a step ahead. It held its

own political status plebiscite last year and is now awaiting the next process. The action taken by its fellow colony has given Guam new impetus to calls for self-determination—a recurring buzzword that always hangs in limbo.

When he ran for office in 2010, Gov. Eddie Calvo set a goal to hold a self-determination plebiscite by 2012.

But the efforts toward decolonization are marred by a tortured process, challenged by a lack of information about what the yet-to-be scheduled plebiscite entails. The existing challenges are compounded by a pending appeal of a federal court's dismissal of a lawsuit that seeks to nullify a public law that defines a "native inhabitants" vote.

"Misinformation"

"There has been a lot of misinformation about this whole issue," Alvarez said.

"People have the impression that Chamorros are fighting for their right to self-determination: the right has already been given by the United Nations through the UN charter, which the United States signed off on, agreeing that places like Guam have the right to choose what kind of political relationship they want with the administering power (the U.S.)."

Guam has three political status options:

statehood, independence, and free association with the U.S. – similar to the compacts with Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

The plebiscite has been postponed indefinitely, pending completion of the Chamorro Registry which is the subject of the lawsuit filed by Arnold "Dave" Davis.

No funds

"Although a lot has been done, we are not yet at the level where we should be at. We need to start the education process," Alvarez said.

But the Commission on Decolonization, which is in charge of public education, is financially handicapped and thus unable to perform its mission, he said.

The commission operates on a bare-bones budget, allocated for salaries and other necessities.

"We have no money for a public education program and governance study," Alvarez said.

Besides, the education campaign would require at least \$1 million. Alvarez also said the commission needs \$30,000 for the governance study that would provide the United Nations with a complete overview of Guam's situation as a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

"When you talk about totem pole responsibilities in GovGuam, decolonization is not up there with health, public safety and education," Alvarez said. "It should be just as important because political status sets forth the ground rules of engagements for our political relationship with the U.S. Otherwise, we will continue to be subjected to federal mandates."

In his State of the Island address delivered Jan. 31, 2012, Gov. Calvo noted the limitations imposed by Guam's colonial status, which he said restrict the island's ability to acquire self-sufficiency.

"It is insane for the federal government to levy the most liberal immigration policy in the U.S. history on Guam, then throw peanuts to offset its impacts, then strangle us with penalties and takeovers when our capacity is breached by the population increase, and in the very same breaths, prohibits us from building jobs and growing our economy with onerous regulations that keep paying-visitors out," Calvo said.

"My message to the federal government has less to deal with the financial assistance Guam has requested in the past; rather, it is this: We can be more self-sufficient if the U.S. government allows us to grow," he added.

North Korea...

continued from page 1

time I believe, though, is their continued pursuit of a nuclear capability."

While he doesn't have a crystal ball, he said, based on that history, "there would likely be"

another provocation. "Clearly, the position, I think, for all countries in the region and certainly our country is that North Korea must be committed to total denuclearization, and a complete and verifiable plan to that," he said. "And that's kind of the bottom line entry of how you would get into a broader set of negotiations

with North Korea at this time."

He also said he has not seen a "credible demonstration" of the touted capabilities of North Korea's middle-range Musudan missile or longer range ICBMs. "Even though when you extrapolate what they referred to as a satellite launch a few months ago, as we went through this discussion

back then, that particular demonstration and the fact that they were able to successfully do that was a demonstration to us that they have the ability to put something into a larger ballistic orbit," he said. "Now, whether they can successfully take that technology and mate it with where they are in their nuclear program has not

been demonstrated."

The topic was among those that ranged from the recovery of the remains of U.S. service members in Vietnam, to relations with India and the Philippines, to policy and potential confrontations with China, and to the impact of sequestration on the military's readiness.