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Guampedia is a non-profit affiliate of the University of Guam with operations funded by the Government of Guam's Tourism Attraction Fund.

# The Marianas Commemorates WWII Experience



This month marks one of the most significant events in the history of the Marianas. On July 21, 1944, US troops landed on Guam to retake the island after two and a half years of Japanese Occupation. By August 10, Japanese forces surrendered while the war raged on in Europe and the Americans continued toward the Japanese homeland.

Throughout the war, the lives of all people on Guam and the Northern Marianas would be changed forever. Guam, a territory of the United States, remained loyal to America during the war. Under Japanese rule, men, women and children were forced to provide food, [labor](#), supplies and shelter to the forces stationed in Guam. However, by relying on the fishing and [farming](#)



(1) Two CHamorus walk through Hagåtña/ Courtesy of Dave Moris.

(2) Manenggon Camp survivors/ Courtesy of MARC

(3) Postwar refugee camp/ Courtesy of MARC

traditions of our ancestors, as well as our deep reliance on community and faith in God and [Santa Marian Kamalen](#), we were able to survive as a people.

In the Northern Marianas, a colony of Japan since 1914, Chamorros and Refalewasch participated in the fortification of the islands. As the fighting moved into Saipan and Tinian, their loyalty to Japan waned, but their faith in God to end the war did not.

While named the same, Liberation Day in Guam is recognized on July 21st . In NMI, Liberation Day is celebrated on July 4th and commemorates the day the

*Continued on Page 2*

Continued from Page 1

Americans released the civilians from Camp Susupe in Saipan in 1946. Whereas the Japanese had set up concentration camps, such as the one in [Manenggon](#), to hold Chamorros during the last days of the occupation, in the Northern Marianas, American forces set up internment camps for civilians soon after they took over. They held the people in these camps for a year after the war ended to protect both civilians and American military personnel while both sides made sense of the new American presence.

This year, 2022 marks a special time for the commemoration of the wartime experiences of the Mariana Islands. In Saipan, July 4 th marks the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that they have gathered for their Liberation Day celebration. Hundreds of

Saipan residents, as well as several officials from throughout the Northern Marianas attended the festivities at Beach Road. On Guam, official festivities began on July 3rd with memorial services at the Manenggon and Asinan Memorials in Yona.

For many people, in Guam and the Northern Marianas, [Liberation Day](#) has different meanings. Most festivities are joyous times filled with carnivals,

parades and fiestas that bring us together as a people. However, as we go through this month, let us not forget the countless lives that were lost, as well as the countless others that persevered. Let this be a time where we sit with our *mañaina* and hear their voices and stories of the many trials and triumphs that have led us here to today. Click here to read more about our [people's WWII experience](#).



Memorial service at masscre site/ Photo courtesy of the Micronesia Area Research

# 78th Guam Liberation Events

## Inalâhan Memorial

July 13, 2022  
9:00am  
Agfayan (Across Bear Rock)  
Unveiling of artist rendering

## Asan Memorial Landing

July 14, 2022  
10:00am  
Asan Memorial Beach Park

## Tinta and Fâha Memorial

July 15, 2022  
8:00am  
Site Visit

## Tinta and Fâha Memorial Mass

July 16, 2022  
4:30pm (Rosary)  
5:00pm (Mass)  
6:00pm (Memorial Service)  
San Dimas/ Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

## Hâgat Memorial

July 19, 2022  
8:30am Fena Site Visit  
9:30am Memorial Ceremony  
Hâgat Senior Center

## Sumay Memorial

July 20, 2022  
11:00am  
Naval Base Cemetery

## Liberation Day Parade

July 21, 2022  
All Day  
Marine Corps Drive, Hagåtña

## Liberation Fandanña Friday

July 22, 2022  
All Day  
Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Park (Ypao)

## CHagui'an Massacre

August 8, 2022  
9:00am  
CHagui'an Massacre Site

[Click here to view the full schedule on the GVB website](#)



# Student-Teacher Team Researches Fallen WWII Guam Soldier

This Summer, teacher Lazaro Quinata, and student Napu Blas, from Father Duenas Memorial School, will be flying out to Hawaii to complete the [Sacrifice for Freedom®: World War II in the Pacific Student & Teacher Institute](#), a student-teacher cooperative learning program. The program, coordinated through [National History Day®](#), is sponsored by the Pearl Harbor Historic Site Partners, including Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, Pacific Historic Parks, USS Missouri Memorial Association, and Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum at Pearl Harbor.

During spring 2022, 16 students and their teachers read historical texts and primary documents, participated in online discussions, and researched the life of a silent hero, a fallen military member from the student's region who is buried or memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. In July, teams will travel to Hawai'i to engage in on-site learning opportunities at the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites and across the island of Oahu. At the culmination of the Sacrifice for Freedom program, the students will develop a Silent Hero® profile to be published online during the 2022-2023 academic year at [NHDSilentHeroes.org](#).

This year, the Guam team selected Steward Third Class Jesus Chargualaf Manalisay as their silent hero. Manalisay was born on April 3, 1941 to Juan Castro Manalisay and Carmen Chargualaf Manalisay in the village of Malesso'. Like many other young CHamoru/Chamorro men his age, Manalisay was drawn to serve in the United States military as a way of making money for his family



*Steward Third Class Jesus C. Manalisay/ Courtesy of Paul Crozier (<http://www.oneternalpatrol.com/>)*

and to see the world beyond the island's shores. Manalisay enlisted in the US Navy on December 2, 1940, just one year before the Japanese invasion of Guam. During his years of service, Manalisay assisted in the defense of Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, a reconnaissance operation in Vega Bay in Kiska, and a surveying operation off of Tanaga. Manalisay survived until his final assignment to the *USS Wahoo*, a Gato Class submarine. On October 11, 1943, Manalisay would die serving aboard the *Wahoo* as it was sunk on its final war patrol in the Soya/La Perouse Strait.

*The following are experiences from Napu Blas and Lazaro Quinata regarding the program and research of Jesus C. Manalisay.*

### **Napu Blas**

My research experience with Sacrifice for Freedom was truly amazing. I feel this program is super important, and for numerous reasons. Firstly, it

helps build your research skills in an incredible way. Secondly, it allows you to understand World War II in a profound way, and on many different levels, too. Sometimes we learned about the bigger picture and the events on the global stage, while at other times we viewed events more individually. Later we researched an individual soldier and their journey through the war. This helps you see the war in different ways, and how it affected different people, different countries, and the whole world in general. Lastly, it does all this in such a fascinating and interactive way.

I never thought you could learn so much about a person who lived in the past solely through research. Of course, well-known historical figures such as Napoleon Bonaparte or Theodore Roosevelt are significantly easier to research due to there being oodles of information about them, but researching and understanding the life of a silent hero is incredibly more challenging. The fact that we were able to extract so much information about our silent hero truly surprised me and showed me the power of research. There's a whole world full of information out there, you just have to look hard enough and put together the pieces.

### **Lazaro Quinata**

Interestingly enough, I participated in this program when I was my student's age back in 2015. As a student, this program opened my eyes to the true importance of understanding and

*Continued on Page 4*

Continued from Page 3

remembering our history. When I started this school year, my department head encouraged me to apply to this program again, but this time as a teacher. And now, experiencing this from the other side, I am once again in awe at how wonderful of a job this program does in helping both students and teachers to understand the importance of history and research. Not only do the program staff do an excellent job of curating materials for us to

read, but they assign questions that challenge both my student and me to think about the WWII experience in ways that push what is normally covered in a class. By researching a silent hero amidst the readings and assignments, one can't help but imagine these events in a more personal way. It's through the forming of this connection to the content that makes this program all the more worthwhile. One of the greatest joys of this is that

I get to work with my student who constantly impresses me at every turn with his dedication to research and an uncanny ability to make connections between seemingly disparate historical events. This program is truly one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences that forever shapes how you perceive the world around you and I am beyond happy to experience this program again and mentor my student as he embarks on this journey.

# Historical Highlights

## Congress Ends Naval Rule

During the first several decades of American administration on the island, the people of Guam were not granted American citizenship. The lack of American citizenship prevented the island's people from having representation and protection under their new colonial administration. This led numerous locals to [advocate for citizenship](#) through petitions, lobbying, and protests. Then in 1949, members of the 9th Guam Congress [walked out of session](#) in protest of their lack of authority within their own island's government, gaining [national attention](#).

This prompted a bill to provide citizenship to Guam's people to be introduced in the US Congress. Then finally, on July 26, 1950, the Senate passed the [Organic Act of Guam](#), establishing a civilian government on the island and granting US citizenship to its people.



*Members of Guam's first elected legislature/ Courtesy of the Judiciary of Guam*

## 1st Flag of Guam Is Raised



*Blueprint of Guam Flag/ Courtesy of MARC*

On July 4, 1918, the official [flag of Guam](#) was raised for the first time. During the height of the Spanish control of the island until 1898, the Spanish flag was flown, only to be replaced by the flag of the United States of America after the Treaty of Paris. Inspiration for the design of the flag possibly comes from three different sources: the works of local artist Francisco Feja, a photograph from former Governor Robert E. Coontz's collection from 1912, and sketches by Helen Paul, wife of Commander Carrol E. Paul. The Guam flag stands today as a symbol of pride, unity and respect for the island of Guam.