



OCTOBER 2021

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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## Liberation Recap and Looking Ahead

*A message from*

*Bernard, Gabe, Crystal & Melissa*

July 2021 marked the 77th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam. In partnership with the Guam Visitor's Bureau (GVB) and the Governor of Guam and her Washington D.C. Liaison Office, GSA co-hosted the first Wreath Laying Ceremony at the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., followed by a Meet and Greet Reception. Un dangkalu na si Yu'us ma'ase to Terri and Danny Smith for once again opening up their home to host the GSA for this very special event. These were the first in-person events GSA co-hosted and participated in since the Cherry Blossom Coronation Ball in March 2020, and was a welcome to many GSA members and greater Chamorro community.



**Left:** Mr. and Mrs. Shinohara & family with the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Governor of Guam and Mr. Cook at the WWII Memorial.



**Right:** GSA members, friends and honorable guests line up to grab their fiesta plate at the Meet and Greet Reception.

## Chamorro Night- A GSA Homecoming Event

Join us for our Chamorro Night, our first GSA homecoming in-person event of the year! This will be a members only event at Fort Meade's Burba Lake Cottage. There will be a fixed number of tickets sold for this event to be in line with Fort Mead's COVID-19 safety guidelines. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### CHAMORRO NIGHT

NOVEMBER 13 - 5PM

### VIRTUAL PAINT NIGHT FUNDRAISER (RESCHEDULED)

NOVEMBER 19

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 20 - 1PM

### SANTA MARIAN KAMALEN NOBENAS

TBD

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 18

### 2021 GSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES

DECEMBER 31 - 11:59PM

Membership payments are accepted online via [SQUARE](https://square.com) or check payable to:

The Guam Society of America, Inc.  
1100 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Suite 2187  
Washington, DC 20003

Any questions? Email:  
[GSAMembershipCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:GSAMembershipCommittee@gmail.com)

## GSA and 501(c)4

At the start of this year, the GSA has been working diligently on establishing a sister 501(c)4 non-profit organization so the GSA can continue to maintain our relationship and membership with the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS). Key members of GSA's executive body have been meeting regularly to formalize volunteer roles and responsibilities, draft bylaws and attain a Taxable Identification Number (TIN). What is a 501(c)4 organization and what is the difference between a 501(c)3 and (c)4? Check out this article [here](#) and join in on our next General Membership Meeting to hear more information and updates.

## Giving Back

GSA continues on the tradition of giving back to the membership. In our 3rd quarter General Membership Meeting, GSA raffled off a Guam goody bag to one of the members in attendance.



Join our next Meeting on November 20 to participate in our last Giving Back Giveaway of 2021.

## CHERRY BLOSSOM PRINCESS CORNER



Hafa Adai! I am finishing up my first class in my graduate program for ASU online. Volunteering for homeless and an empowerment center in my local community, is in the works. This summer I spent my time in Washington, D.C interning for the FBI's Honors Internship Program working with agents, analysts, and professional staff. Since the CBP week has been over, I have been fortunate enough to keep in contact and attended bonding events with other Cherry Blossom princesses. Attending the Wreath Laying in D.C was an unforgettable experience, that I was blessed to attend. As for the future, I plan to take on a heavier school load and work part-time at the VA Medical Center, while maintaining a DOJ internship.



Si Yu'us Ma'ase for allowing me to be the GSA's 2020 and 2021 Cherry Blossom Princess! I look forward to seeing what 2022 has in store for the new Princess!

## Scholarship Awardees:

Congratulations to Anthony T. Cruz, Christian Mansapit and Donovan Mansapit for being selected for the the GSA College Student Scholarship Award and High School Student Scholarship Award. Anthony Cruz attends George Mason University and is pursuing a degree in Computer Science. Christian Mansapit also attends George Mason University and is pursuing a degree in Information Technology. Donovan Mansapit graduated High School in June 2021 and is a freshman at California State University San Marcos. Thank you to all participants who applied for the Guam Society of America's 2021 scholarship. We encourage all eligible students to apply for the 2022 scholarship cycle. Check our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for information.