

Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ Session, 2017

H. B. 20-133

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To rename Building P of the Northern Marianas College in
As Terlaje Hill, Saipan, as the “**Agnes Manglona
McPhetres Administrative Building**” in recognition of her
untiring and outstanding contributions to the development
of higher education in the Commonwealth; and for other
purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Agnes
2 Manglona McPhetres, a woman with a great deal of tenacity, learned early in life
3 that in order for her community to harness its greatest potential, it must provide a
4 venue for individuals to challenge themselves academically and seek higher
5 education. Knowing that institutions of higher education across America serve as
6 the economic driving force for their respective communities, Agnes Manglona
7 McPhetres advocated its importance to the Commonwealth of the Northern
8 Mariana Islands (CNMI) youth and led by example as she pushed herself to
9 receive her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education in 1971 from the
10 College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska and a Masters in Education with
11 emphasis on Supervision and Administration from San Jose State University,
12 California in 1981.

1 Agnes Manglona McPhetres dedicated most of her life to the education of
2 students throughout the Pacific Islands as she served in different positions
3 including Classroom Teacher from 1956 to 1967 at Mt. Carmel School in Saipan,
4 Principal of St. Cecilia's School in Moen, Chuuk from 1971-1972, Executive
5 Director of the State Vocational Advisory Council from 1972-1973 for the Trust
6 Territory government, and Assistant Director of Education for the Department of
7 Education under the Trust Territory government from 1974-1977, and in 1979 to
8 1983 she served as the CNMI's Associate Superintendent of Schools.

9 From 1983 to 1999, Ms. McPhetres served as the first President of the
10 Northern Marianas College (NMC). Through her stellar leadership, Ms.
11 McPhetres and her team were able to get the newly founded NMC accredited by
12 the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in June of 1985.

13 Ms. McPhetres ability to negotiate among her colleagues in the Pacific
14 paved way for the creation of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC),
15 while fostering this vision in which she believed in the "Business Incubator"
16 model. One noteworthy business that continues operations today as a result of the
17 model is that of Island Apparel which started as a result of this nurturing.

18 Her statesman like demeanor was recognized nationally as she was able to
19 muster U.S. Congressional support for the first ever recognized 2 year college to
20 receive Land Grant status normally reserved for 4 year colleges. Her "no
21 nonsense attitude" in getting this federal program out to the CNMI has resulted in
22 millions of federal dollars to aid farmers through teaching them unique and

1 practical ways to farm their fields as well as creating new opportunities to farm
 2 aquatic creatures; a practice never heard of before in this part of the world.

3 Initially started through Executive Order No. 25 by then-Governor Carlos
 4 Camacho in 1981 and with a budget of \$55,000, Ms. McPhetres was able to
 5 maneuver the entity through the roughest of waters. Today, NMC through the
 6 enactment of Public Law 3-43 and further strengthened by Public Law 4-34 is a
 7 public corporation under the general governance of its own Board of Regents. As
 8 a result of these pooled efforts, NMC receives annual local appropriations of \$4
 9 million dollars and maintains a student population of a little over 1,000 students.

10 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 1, General Provisions, Chapter 4, Article
 11 2, §425 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended by adding a new (aa) (1)
 12 and (2) to read as follows:

13 “(aa)(1). Naming. The building identified as the administration building
 14 and labeled as “Building P” is hereby renamed as the “**Agnes Manglona**
 15 **McPhetres Administrative Building**” in recognition and appreciation of her
 16 untiring and outstanding contributions to the Northern Marianas College and to
 17 the people of the Commonwealth. This Act shall have a perpetual effect, as this
 18 building or any building in which the NMC President establishes office due to
 19 construction, relocation, renovation improvements, or any reason thereafter shall
 20 then be duly renamed the “**Agnes Manglona McPhetres Administrative**
 21 **Building**”.

22 (2). Dedication. The Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands in
 23 coordination with the President of the Northern Marianas College and the family

1 of Agnes Manglona McPhetres shall prepare a plan of dedication within sixty
2 days from the effective date of this Act.”

3 **Section 3. Appropriation.** The Governor is hereby authorized to
4 reprogram the sum of \$5,000.00 from the general fund to implement the intent
5 and purpose of this Act.

6 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of
7 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a
8 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
9 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
10 shall not be affected thereby.

11 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
12 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
13 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted
14 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
15 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have
16 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability civil or criminal,
17 which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

18 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
19 the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 10/10/17

Date: 10/10/17

Introduced by:



Rep. Rafael S. Demapan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Jordan D. Day
House Legal Counsel