



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM  
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÅHAN  
Board of Regents

Resolution No. 20-24

**RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS TO RLENE SANTOS STEFFY**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents (BOR) is authorized to confer degrees;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy is a mass communications specialist of 42 years, incorporating a unique combination of professional, practical, and academic casework and experience in the areas of advertising, electronic media, journalism, photo-communications, public relations, cyber journalism, videography, oral history collection, ethnography, and producer of informative documentaries and biographies;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy's commendable accomplishments include over thirteen documentaries, five technical reports, five poster collections and displays, nine broadcasts, twenty-one publications, and twenty-seven presentations related to Guam and Micronesia region, utilizing an oral history methodology that with carefully framed interviews that demonstrated rigorous background research, a creative eye for place, and an interview technique that elicited the most hidden memories from informants;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy's work as a documentarian captured the experiences of war survivors, community leaders, and traditional knowledge experts on Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) and throughout the Micronesian Region. Her work, recognized by experts in the field as being of the highest caliber, gave voice to the CHamoru people in their own story, documenting their first-hand experiences;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy also collected oral history accounts on a variety of topics, such as traditional fishing practices; traditional cultural properties in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands; leprosy in Micronesia; the CHamoru diaspora in Micronesia and the U.S. Mainland; the Spanish *hotnon ladriyu*; cockfighting; history of sports on Guam; law, medicine, media in Guam and Micronesia; musical legacy; and the biographies of CHamoru in the Marianas. Her catalog includes just under a thousand oral accounts of Oceanic peoples on audio and video recordings in their native languages, Palauan, Pohnpeian, English, Japanese, Fijian, Samoan, two indigenous Taiwanese languages, Rukai and Paiwan, and CHamoru;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy published in local, regional, national, and international magazine and news organizations as a professional interviewer and photographer; presented at international conferences for the Japan Oral History Association and Australian Oral History Association; published on the History of Leprosy website for the International Leprosy Awareness Global Project and presented at the International Leprosy Awareness Conference; participated in the Pacific Festivals of the Arts in Palau and American Samoa; was an invited speaker to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marianas History Conference; and prepared technical reports for the International Archeological Research Institute, Inc., Micronesian Archeological Research Services, Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC), and Cardno;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy, with her husband, published two editions of the 1908 Chamorro Bible as well as four locally, nationally, and internationally acclaimed Guam History video documentaries with grants from the Guam Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service, entitled: *Context: Oral History Overview of Guam and Micronesia*, *Historic Context:*

*Hagatna Historic District, Historic Context: Umatac Historic Sites, Historic Context: Merizo Historic Sites, Historic Context: Guam Massacre Sites, and Historic Context: Hotnon Ladriyu;*

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy's History Series entitled, *Tinaotao Marianas*, was frequently aired on KUAM and the Legislative Channel;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy's documentary entitled, *Manenggon March and Concentration Camp Survivor Accounts*, which involved 12 years of research and production, along with other documentaries, *Historic Context: Guam Massacre Sites* and *Historic Context: Hotnon Ladriyu*, are available on Guam through the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) and the Guam Public Library System as well as on Saipan at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy was recognized as a Humanities Scholar by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and the Northern Marianas College (NMC), where she reviewed and evaluated the oral history collection, resulting in a production of an hour-long video documentary to show the value of the collection;

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy is currently working on her second CHamoru Children's Book and the publication of the video documentary about traditional fishing practices, both scheduled for completion in 2020;

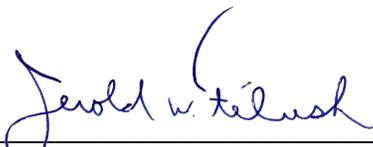
**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy's strength and commitment to excellence in the field of Oral History and Ethnographic Documentation demonstrated a high order of creative, scholarly achievement, making a significant and lasting contribution to local and regional research in the humanities and social sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, Rlene S. Steffy's recommendation package has been reviewed by the Deans' Council, Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Faculty Excellence, the UOG President, and the Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations, and Honorary Degree Committee and recommends approval of the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* (DHL) to the BOR.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the BOR hereby approves to confer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* (DHL), upon Rlene S. Steffy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the BOR, along with the President of UOG, will confer said Honorary Degree at the Fanuchånan 2020 commencement.

Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

  
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Jerold W. Filush, Chairperson

**ATTESTED:**

  
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Thomas W. Krise, Ph.D., Executive Secretary