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PRIMARY: SATURDAY AUGUST 3, 2024

GENERAL: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024





# MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICELAS

### FOR CONGRESS

RESPONSIBLE GUAM

### **RESULTS**

MIKE SAN NICOLAS did more in four years in Congress than anyone would have imagined, providing the funding that helped the most vulnerable members of society, the middle class, and those severely affected by the pandemic. The financial resources he secured not only balanced Guam's budget, it led to an era of surplus never before seen. Several of his accomplishments were regarded as impossible but that doubt only fueled him to get things done. Because MSN delivers.

### WAR CLAIMS

Did you know that in his first year in office, Mike San Nicolas refused to back down until he successfully resolved the long-standing war claims problem that had persisted for seven decades? He worked on that issue day and night, even when the House went into recess, and his efforts paid off. Successfully passing his first Bill in his first year which placed him as one of only six Freshmen in the 116th Congress to do so. Thanks to his dedication, hundreds of Manåmko' finally received their War Claims, on Guam and across the United States.

### MORE MEDICAID FUNDS

Mike San Nicolas prioritized Guam's receipt of more Medicaid funds for one reason: the vast numbers of our people who depend on the program for their medical needs. Not only did Medicaid funding increase during his tenure, he convinced Congress to increase the federal government's cost share to 87 percent. This accomplishment alone saves Guam nearly \$40 million annually, and now Guam Medicaid has more funding than it needs to meet the healthcare requirements of those who qualify.

### COFA MEDICAID

The former congressman could not bear to see so many residents of Guam suffering without medical coverage through Medicaid simply because they were citizens of the Freely Associated States. He worked with his colleagues in Congress to allow residents of Guam living here due to the Compacts of Free Association to apply for and receive Medicaid. As a result of these efforts every COFA migrant now has the opportunity to qualify for Medicaid, significantly alleviating the strain on the severely underfunded Medically Indigent Program on Guam.

EITC Everyone said it could not be done. People laughed when Mike San Nicolas said he was going to try to convince the Congress to have the federal government reimburse Guam the cost of paying out the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). But he did it. Since then, GovGuam has been earning an additional \$60-70 million annually, a figure that is expected to increase every year. This eliminated the structural imbalance of the General Fund, and with the Treasury insistence that it be used to pay tax refunds, these are now paid to our people faster than ever before in Guam's history making it another long-standing issue finally resolved.

### AGENT ORANGE FOR GUAM VETERANS

When the national discussion on the United States' expansion of Veteran benefits was in full gear, Mike San Nicolas used the opportunity to secure Agent Orange benefits for veterans stationed on Guam during the time it was reported to have been used here. Harnessing the advocacy of dozens of veterans affected still living on Guam and in the States, bi-partisan support, and the family of the late Lonnie Kilpatrick, he secured the language in the Honoring our Pact Act, and today those veterans can now get the help they have been seeking for decades.

### MISSILE DEFENSE

It was during the tenure and advocacy of Congressman San Nicolas that the Department of Defense investment into a new state of the art missile defense system for Guam became a reality. Today over \$2 Billion has been allocated to Guam for this purpose, with as much as \$7 Billion planned in spending in the years ahead to keep ALL of the people of Guam throughout the entirety of the island safe from every type of missile threat. Instead of living in fear of China, North Korea or Russia, it is important to focus on proactive solutions that enhance security and peace for our people by ensuring Guam doesn't lose out on maximum funding opportunities. Spreading fear has also never led to constructive solutions.

### PANDEMIC RELIEF

Contrary to misinformation, there was <u>no</u> formula that automatically included Guam and most of the other territories in federal relief aid during the pandemic. Territories were automatically excluded from almost every program because we are not a part of the IRS, we do not pay into the US Treasury, we do not have a local unemployment program, we do not have municipalities on Guam, and many of the payment authorizations and funding channels were not aligned with the States. Mike San Nicolas, along with the other territorial congressmen and congresswomen, had to make the case for the Congress to include the territories in all relief funding and ensure every step of the way that all support had special provisions to include us. Mike San Nicolas was in the best position to do so at the time as Vice Chairman of the powerful House Financial Services Committee, through which relief programs were designed

as part of a package that all exclusive committees had to agree on. That is how Guam and the other territories were included: His influence and hard work and the support and hard work of his colleagues.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): Thanks to the House Financial Services Committee, everyone in Guam displaced from work by the pandemic received tens of thousands of dollars, or more than a billion dollars together. This one program sustained families and the overall economy at the height of the pandemic. Mike San Nicolas even ensured that the program was reinstated when workers with reduced hours were cutoff for weeks, again making sure that our people had all the support they needed.

Stimulus funding: The thousands of dollars many Guamanians received several times over? That funding came from Congress, resulting from Mike San Nicolas' work to ensure territories were included even though our tax agency was not a part of the IRS. Childcare Assistance: The tens of millions of dollars that provided childcare assistance grants to so many people in Guam came from the federal funds Mike San Nicolas secured from this program for Guam.

Rental Assistance: Thousands of Guamanians would have been kicked out of their rentals had the federal government not included Guam in funding for rental assistance grants. Mike San Nicolas fought for Guam's eligibility for these funds, and his colleagues agreed with him.

American Rescue Plan Funds: Over half a billion dollars directly supported the government of Guam and has funded LEAP Programs, Prugråman Salåppe', and many other locally administered programs that helped the people of Guam. Over one hundred million dollars remain to hopefully support a new hospital one day. Mike San Nicolas not only secured these funds for territories but also ensured fair distribution, dividing half of it equally among territories and the other half based on population, to prevent smaller territories from being overlooked.

Education Funds: The Guam Department of Education received over \$150 million in additional funds through the work of Mike San Nicolas as part of pandemic packages, which would allow for facility improvements in schools throughout the island representing a significant investment in education. So much so that the Department of Education continues to work today to try to expend it all.

Municipal Funds: Because of Mike San Nicolas' efforts to secure federally allocated funds intended for municipalities, your village Mayors had an entire year's budget worth of additional money at their disposal. Despite Guam not having traditional municipalities, mayors were able to use this allocation to address the needs of their village communities, with full discretion, as they navigated the challenges of emerging from the pandemic.

**Tuition Reimbursement:** Pandemic relief Mike San Nicolas secured for Guam included millions to UOG and GCC to be able to reimburse student tuition during this time, providing all students with additional funds to help them meet their needs during this difficult time.

### FOSTERING LOCAL INITIATIVES

FISHERMAN'S CO-OP/LIVESTOCK CO-OP: Amidst the pandemic, Mike San Nicolas successfully persuaded Congress to allocate \$3 million for Guam to build a fisherman's co-op facility. His H.R. 2471 - included in the omnibus spending bill that year - was adopted by the Congress and subsequently signed into law by the President. Additionally, the former congressman effectively advocated for the successful approval of \$1.2 million for the development of a livestock facility on Guam. These initiatives aimed to support local farmers in fostering food security, promoting sustainability, ensuring quality control, and building a stronger sense of community within the region

### NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS FOR GUAM

In his final month in office Mike San Nicolas never stopped working as your congressman, and in that time, he closed out an item he had been working on to get National Heritage Areas to be studied on Guam to be eligible for federal recognition that could unlock millions in funding to support and maintain them. The legislation opens up the doors to millions in funding for the protection of significant Guam sites, like Gadao's Cave in Inalåhan, Litekyan in the North, Manenggon in Yona, Tinta and Faha in Malesso', Chagui'an in Yigo, The Plaza De España in Hagåtña, the Hågat Spanish Bridge, and so many other places of historical significance throughout the island.

### HELP FOR INDIVIDUALS

Congressman San Nicolas' office helped thousands of people individually, from veterans needing off-island care, cost of living adjustments, prosthetics, electric wheelchairs, or life-saving medical care, to reuniting families separated by foreign status, to organizing food drives during the initial stages of the pandemic before any relief came, to opening his office for our National Guardsmen to rest and cooking hot soup for them to eat when they were on duty at our Nation's Capital. Through countless constituent requests and proactive efforts, Congressman San Nicolas consistently went the extra mile to ensure that our community's needs were met during the most challenging times.

Folks, we did this in two terms. Together. Let's get Guam winning again!

### **SOLUTIONS**

As Congressman, MIKE SAN NICOLAS got a lot done, but there is more to do. And no one has a better record of getting things done and is more qualified to do what Guam needs done than Congressman Michael San Nicolas. Many of our fellow Guamanians have not had proper federal representation in the past two years, making the challenges of surviving in Guam even more difficult. Mike San Nicolas understands these concerns, these issues, and possesses the skills to collaborate with others to implement effective solutions.

### SSI - SUPPLEMENTALL SECURITY INCOME

Prior to leaving office, Mike San Nicolas left the current congressman a golden opportunity: He completed all the necessary groundwork to include Guamanians in Supplemental Security Income (SSI). During his time in the House, he successfully secured this for Guam through the passage of the "Build Back Better," but the measure did not pass the Senate. Since he departed, progress on this issue has stalled, resulting in a serious opportunity lost, especially when COFA migrants gained eligibility, but Territories were excluded. If you elect him back to office, Mike will ensure Guam is never left out on such matters again, and will work to qualify Guamanians for SSI, ensuring people and their families with limited income and resources who are blind, age 65 or older, or have a qualifying disability have the security they need to live. With Mike, we can look forward to a more inclusive future.

### LOWER COST OF HOUSING

Mike San Nicolas has a three-pronged approach to resolving the housing affordability problem. He wants to tackle it from the top down, engaging the Federal Reserve to create real solutions to bring down mortgage interest rates to levels closer aligned with interest rates. From the bottom up, Mike San Nicolas wants to get housing funding directly into the hands of aspiring homeowners by establishing eligibility for Native Housing programs on Guam. From the inside out, Mike San Nicolas wants to expand access to affordable housing tax credits and federal rental subsidies by relaxing program limits and thresholds for districts like ours that are not contiguous to other program jurisdictions. All of these can be done through the Financial Services Committee which has oversight over these entities and programs. With Mike, we can empower our community with more affordable housing solutions.

### ELIMINATE YOUR POWER AND GAS COSTS

Did you know that there are large federal tax credits to put solar on your house, and large federal tax credits to get an electric vehicle, but neither of these credits are actually designed to complement each other? Mike San Nicolas wants to work on modifying these tax credits so that we on Guam, and Americans across the country, can have easier access to them to put solar and battery on our house, an electric vehicle plug and cord, and an electric vehicle in our garage (if you want, of course), so that the two biggest bills we are paying – power and gas – stop sucking dollars out of our wallets and killing our cost of living. This alone will save families hundreds, if not thousands of dollars every month, and make living on Guam much more affordable. An added plus? We will improve the stability of Guam's power grid with decentralized solar and batteries to support peak demand times. WIN WIN WIN.

### EXPAND VETERAN BENEFITS

Throughout his time in office, Mike San Nicolas has been fighting for more support for veterans. As your Senator in the Guam Legislature, his inquiries and work led to the doubling of the Veterans Affairs budget for the first time in decades, and he knows firsthand that the root of all veteran services problems on Guam and throughout the country is funding. To resolve this, and bring a wave of solutions for all veterans, from healthcare to benefits, and beyond, Mike San Nicolas wants to do the hard work necessary to include the funding authorization for Federal Veterans Affairs in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that funds the entire United States Military. Accomplishing this will put veteran funding on the same level as all other military funding, ensuring it passes every year with bipartisan support, and has funding levels appropriate for the mission to service our Vets appropriately.

### RADIATION EXPOSURE COMPENSATION

Building on the work of Robert Celestial and PARS we need to support this organization as it seeks to get Guam included in the downwinders compensation for those exposed to radiation from nuclear testing fallout. Guam was exposed to the nuclear tests in the Republic of the Marshall Islands on Bikini Atoll, and Guam has made significant progress towards being accepted into the compensation program, which would offer vital financial assistance to those whose health has been adversely impacted. Unfortunately, while Mike was out of the office, there was a promising opportunity that slipped away, receiving Senate support but lacking backing in the House — an unfortunate missed chance. It is essential to see this through for Guam, and Mike possesses the expertise and connections to achieve this goal, having previously advanced it in the House during his congressional tenure.

### EXPAND AGENT ORANGE TO CIVILIANS

Having achieved breakthrough recognition of Agent Orange use on Guam, Mike San Nicolas wants to expand on this work and make the case to extend compensation, remediation, and healthcare support to the civilian population on Guam, as it currently only extends to Veterans exposed during a certain period. This support could encompass various initiatives, such as providing financial assistance to Guam

residents, allocating funds to enhance the protection of our water resources, and offering medical care for people suffering from associated ailments.

### DRUG REHABILITATION

To push back on the drug epidemic on Guam, Congressman San Nicolas wants to engage with programs in place across the country, connecting them with change agents on Guam who are working in the drug rehabilitation space and those interested in doing so, in order to adopt best practices and federal funding opportunities for Guam. Building these and other non-profit partnerships to fill the gaps in drug rehabilitation must be a priority if we hope to empower addicts to turn their lives around. Let's combat Guam's drug epidemic by forging partnerships with national drug rehabilitation programs to implement best practices and secure federal funding for local initiatives.

### NATIVE CONTRACTING

While in office, Congressman San Nicolas introduced legislation and even had a hearing on the measure to allow for Native recognition for Guam contractors, opening up "Super 8A" status for these Guam contractors that would give them access to the billions in set-aside federal project awards for this program. You are familiar with this – it's the same program that attracted the Native Alaskan companies and Native Hawaiian companies to Guam when the military buildup was getting started. Establishing this eligibility for Native Guam contractors will massively stimulate our economy by instantly opening access to very large contracting opportunities, bringing in billions in project work and hundreds of millions in tax revenue. Additionally, establishing this will lay the necessary groundwork to pursue other Native funding opportunities federally, like Native funding for Education, Native funding for Healthcare, and Native funding for Housing. All areas on Guam that badly need more resources. Let's join Mike as he aims to drive economic growth on Guam by advocating for Native contractor recognition, unlocking access to federal project awards, and paving the way for further opportunities in critical sectors.

### TERRITORY REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE

As your Congressman, Mike San Nicolas' work didn't end with passage of his bills in the House. He needed to get his legislation through the Senate, where no Territories have any representation. To resolve he introduced legislation to authorize it, secured over 30 co-sponsors to support it, and got the endorsements of the Asia Pacific American Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, and Progressive Caucus, all of which combine for over 150 Members. Mike wants Guam to be able to have a delegate in the Senate, similar to the House delegate position, who can help Guam in the upper chamber to get things done, and make sure Guam is not left out on work that the Senate is doing. Achieving this will singly be the biggest step forward in expanding Territorial representatives decades ago, and permanently address the risk of Guam and territories being left out in the future. Let's support Mike in leading the charge to secure Senate representation for Guam, a crucial step towards ensuring Territorial inclusion and advocacy in the upper chamber.

### MEDICARE PORTABILITY

Because a significant number of Guamanians who rely on Medicare seek treatment in the Philippines, and since that treatment generally costs the federal government less money than treatment in the United States, it only makes sense that Congress allow Medicare subscribers in Guam to use their program benefits at hospitals and medical centers in the Philippines. Pursuing this requires an artful approach to permit foreign use of Medicare if the nearest U.S. provider is a specific distance away, as is the case with us and our nearest providers in Hawaii. Mike San Nicolas will advocate for Medicare portability to enable Guamanians to access medical treatment in the Philippines, offering cost-effective healthcare options for Medicare subscribers in Guam

We know how to get it done, let's get it done TOGETHER!

Please Vote
MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
for Congress