



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
U.S.A.

Executive Order No 2004- 08

**RELATIVE TO REDEDICATING "MARINE DRIVE" AND
TO REDESIGNATE IT "MARINE CORPS DRIVE".**

WHEREAS, in March 1944 Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief Pacific and Commander-in-Chief Pacific Ocean Areas, created a special headquarters called Forward Area Pacific Command headed by Vice Admiral John H. Hoover who was given responsibility for the Pacific islands after they were conquered by U.S. forces. After the start of the Guam invasion on 21 July 1944, Hoover's responsibility focused on the Marianas, and his title then became Commander, Marianas Area. Hoover's authority on Guam was delegated to Major General Henry L. Larsen, USMC, who was named island commander by Nimitz on 15 August 1944. Hoover and Larsen placed top priority on the construction of a permanent, multi-lane express highway from Apra Harbor to the sites for airfields and naval facilities. Construction began in September 1944 under the Fifth Naval Construction Brigade commanded by Captain William O. Hiltabiddle, Jr., who commanded nine Seabee battalions, three stevedore battalions, the Third Marine Division's engineer battalion, and four army aviation engineer battalions. The road was put into use even before it was completely paved, used for hauling ordinance and supplies from Apra Harbor to the air bases in the North. The road was named "Marine Drive" in honor of the Marines who took the island from the Japanese. [From Destiny's Landfall by Dr. Robert Rogers]

WHEREAS, an obelisk on Marine Drive in Hagåtña bears a plaque stating:

**MARINE DRIVE
DEDICATED TO THE LIVING AND DEAD OF THE FIRST
PROVISIONAL MARINE BRIGADE AND THE THIRD
MARINE DIVISIONS WHO LANDED ON THIS ISLAND
JULY 21, 1944 AND SPEARHEADED AN ATTACK TO
LIBERATE GUAM, FIRST JAP-CONQUERED AMERICAN
TERRITORY OF WORLD WAR II MAJ GEN. HENRY L.
LARSON U.S.M.C. ISLAND COMMANDER**

WHEREAS, Marine Drive was dedicated to the United States Marines who liberated Guam from the Japanese in 1944. The meaning behind designating this road "Marine Drive" has been lost through the generations. Many visitors and residents think that the highway was named "Marine Drive" because of its proximity to the ocean.



NOW THEREFORE, I, **FELIX P. CAMACHO**, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, and laws of Guam, do hereby order:

- (a) That the Organic Act allows the Governor to issue executive orders and regulations not in conflict with any applicable laws and whereas there is no law naming (Route 1) Marine Drive which was simply designated as such by General Larson in 1945;
- (b) Marine Drive, (Route 1) is hereby redesignated "**Marine Corps Drive.**" The Department of Public Works shall post signs showing the new designation along Route 1 replacing signs as necessary, provided that all signs shall be replaced prior to January 2010. Three new signs shall be created and posted near the main gate of Naval Station, near I Sengsong Chamorro in Hagåtña and near the main gate of Andersen Air Force Base.
- (c) Names for portions of Route 1, *e.g.* Chalan Padiron in Yigo, shall be recognized.
- (d) The 2004 Liberation Day Committee shall hold a suitable ceremony to rededicate "**Marine Corps Drive**" on the 60th Anniversary of Liberation Day, July 21, 2004, to the memory of those Marines, living and dead, who liberated Guam in 1944.

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately. So that those affected by the change of name are saved the expense of reprinting stationery, changing signage etc., both names may be used until January 1, 2010, when **Marine Corps Drive**, only, shall be used.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam, this 13th day of April 2004.

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga'låhen Guåhan
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

KALEO S. MOYLAN
Segundo Maga'låhen Guåhan
Lieutenant Governor

