

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS  
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY  
MILITARY DAY IN GUAM  
February 22, 1918

It is fitting that this day should be thus celebrated in Guam. Washington was not only the Father of his Country and its first President, but he was also a great General. None better than he realized that we should be at all times prepared to uphold by force the position we had assumed and intended to maintain in the family of nations. Nations to be great must be strong. Preparedness was urged by him on all occasions. So it is fitting that Washington's Birthday should be Military Day.

A year or more ago the inhabitants of Guam in general meetings throughout the Island petitioned the Governor to establish universal military training. They wished this done for the benefit of their young men, as it would make them more active and alert and physically fit; but they also wanted it for the defense of their Island, and they added that if the United States required it they would be willing to leave their Island and go anywhere their services were needed.

In response to these petitions universal military training was inaugurated, the first possession of the United States where this was done, and in fact the only one up to the present time. It begins with the school boys, whose drill you will see in a few minutes. Also the Guam Militia was established, active and reserve. The active militia serves from 16 to 23, the reserve from 23 to 40. There is no reserve as yet, but the active militia already numbers about 1000.

The national government will supply arms and ammunition for target practice, the members of the militia and the Island Government supplying the rest.

The militia regiment has just passed in review with its own band, now parading for the first time, and its own Island flag, carried in company with the American flag. These 1000 khaki-clad soldiers represent about 7 per cent of the native population. The same percentage in the United States would mean 7,000,000 men under arms. I can only add that the result of the year's work is remarkable, and that the patriotism and enthusiasm of these young men promise much for the Island and the country.



But this is not all of Military Day now so happily inaugurated. The procession that has just passed, comprising the whole military of the Island, American and native, with three bands, the school children, the wonderful floats, the Elks Lodge, the clubs, and civil organizations, makes up a sight that has never been seen before in Guam. And there is more yet, for the booths are now open, where everything is to be obtained, and there are to be exhibition drills, and competitions, and baseball, and special motion pictures, and dancing.

All the concessions are for the benefit of the Red Cross. Guam has done most creditable work for the Red Cross in the past year. It has increased its membership 600 per cent and has contributed so far about \$3,100 to the war fund. When we reflect that there are only 600 or 700 Americans on the Island and the rest of the population are natives who know only what they have heard about America and the Red Cross and the war, the result seems all the more praiseworthy.

Another feature will be the subscription booth for the next Liberty Loan, which I am sure will be numerously patronized. (The final returns for the day showed \$1,500 for the Red Cross and \$50,000 subscribed for the Liberty Loan.)

And now a word to those of you who have come from other parts of the Island, mostly by tug, it has been quite an undertaking, but when the road system is finished it will be easy enough. There is almost no communication now with the southern part of the Island, except by water. This should have been changed long ago. If you will pitch in and build these roads yourselves, you can come to Agana whenever you like, and what is of more importance, you can get your produce to market. So the roads will mean much to the Island. And now fall to and have a good time, and profit by your intercourse with each other, and take note of what you can do in the future to make Military Day one of the great days in Guam.