

When Guam was attack by the Imperial Japanese in World War II, there was a limited United States presence. This made the island vulnerable to invasion, and exactly that happened. I am happy to say that there is one major difference: the United States is here for Guam.

Every year, we celebrate Liberation Day. It is grand display of patriotism and reminds us that we are safe. As I said in my testimony, I can sleep soundly at night knowing that my family, friends, and community are safe from harm thanks to the United States.

Yes, of course the experiences are still felt and remembered. Guam has a long history of passing down stories from generation to generation. I learned stories of the war from my parents and have passed down my stories to my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, like so many others. Learning about our history is about educating others, and that is why I am here before you today, sharing my story with you and the country about Guam as I have done for decades past, and will continue to always do.

Guam has been threatened before and will always be the target of aggression in the region. Despite this, the people of Guam are strong, brave, and resilient; we continue life as normal. I am very aware of the threat China poses to Guam and the nation, I watch the news and follow current events very closely. I, like the people of Guam, are not scared knowing that the federal government is always in our corner.

Thank you and God Bless.

Mrs Irene Ploke Sgambelluri