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https://www.postguam.com/news/local/agent-orange-rally-tomorrow/article_548e817c-319a-11e8-9f67-2788a84135bb.html

Agent Orange rally tomorrow

John O'Connor | The Guam Daily Post 5 hrs ago

Vietnam veterans and supporters are being called to rally on Thursday to help raise possible Agent Orange contamination awareness as well as garner support for bills in Congress seeking to grant broader coverage for those exposed to the toxic chemical.

The rally will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in front of the office of Del. Madeleine Bordallo in Hagåtña.

Three of the rally organizers, Ned Pablo, veteran Barry Mead and Susan Uncangco, said elected leaders simply aren't doing enough to address past use of Agent Orange on Guam.

Recent news of Agent Orange spraying on Guam led to the introduction of H.R. 809, also known as the FOSTER Act, named after a man who claimed to have sprayed the chemical on island – Leroy Foster.

H.R. 809 would grant presumptive Agent Orange exposure status to service members who served on Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands or American Samoa during the Vietnam War.

Meanwhile, an older bill, H.R. 299, would include the seas around Vietnam as areas of presumptive service connection for herbicide exposure.

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HONDA

Several veterans also have spoken about alleged spraying of the chemical during the Vietnam War era on island and a Government Accountability Office investigation is now taking place on the issue.

Guam has high rates of cancers and other diseases that can be attributed to Agent Orange, said Mead, Pablo and Uncangco. Members of the GAO team were on island last year to speak with veterans about possible Agent Orange locations but more needs to be done to get input from non-military residents who may also have witnessed or handled the material, according to all three rally organizers.

Uncangco is the daughter of a Navy civilian worker and her uncle is a Vietnam veteran. They were both inflicted with diseases that she believes were the result of Agent Orange exposure.

Pablo, an activist, is running for senator this election. A candidate packet for senator has also been picked up for Mead at the Guam Election Commission.



Agent Orange Rally 2.mp4

John O'Connor 5 hrs ago

John O'Connor

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