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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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## Agent Orange rally held

John O'Connor | The Guam Daily Post 8 hrs ago



'WAITING FOR SOLUTIONS': Ned Pablo, an activist and senatorial candidate, speaks with Guam Del. Madeleine Bordallo on Thursday during an Agent Orange awareness rally in Hagåtña. John O'Connor/The Guam Daily Post

Vietnam veterans and supporters rallied yesterday outside the office of Del. Madeleine Bordallo to help garner support for a bill intended to broaden Agent Orange exposure coverage to Guam, as well as spread awareness of the toxic chemical's potential impact on island.

John Quidachay, 67, used to help load bombs and transport them to Andersen Air Force Base in the late 1960s. He said he witnessed individuals spraying in the area. He said he now believes the workers were spraying Agent Orange.

Quidachay said he hopes the federal government would compensate veterans and other individuals on Guam possibly exposed to Agent Orange.

H.R. 809, the Fighting for Orange-Stricken Territories in the Eastern Region (FOSTER) Act, promises to grant presumptive Agent Orange exposure status to service members who served on Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands or American Samoa during the Vietnam War.

It was named after retired Master Sgt. Leroy Foster, who claimed to have sprayed gallons of the chemical on island.

The bill has more than 300 sponsors, according to Bordallo, who attended the rally shortly after it began around 4 p.m. Thursday.

"I'm urging the Republican Party, because they're in the majority, to move this forward," she said.

## Possible pitfall

A possible pitfall in the Agent Orange recognition movement is the recent firing of David Shulkin, the secretary of Veterans Affairs, by President Donald Trump.

Bordallo said she would work with new VA leadership to prioritize Guam issues.

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**HONDA**

"While we have made some progress here on Guam, local veterans continue to struggle with consistent access to health care, timely processing of benefits claims, and recognition of our unique challenges because of our geographic location," she said.

"Guam veterans are also waiting for solutions to assertions of Agent Orange and radiation exposure from past wars."

Shulkin was the first VA secretary to acknowledge that Agent Orange-related benefits should be restored, according to an opinion piece in The Hill from John Wells, a retired Navy commander turned attorney and veterans advocate.

Wells also spoke to The Guam Daily Post in January about financial issues that are holding back measures attempting to expand Agent Orange recognition.



1:53

John Quidachay  
5 hrs ago



Madeleine Bordallo  
5 hrs ago

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## John O'Connor

Reporting on utilities, education and other topics.