



## **2012 New Year's Resolutions Doris Flores Brooks**

January 1, 2012. As 2011 comes to a close, I thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon my family and me and for living in a free and democratic country on our beautiful island of Guam.

With our troops withdrawn from Iraq, I pray for peace and harmony among all people. Our armed forces, including our own National Guard and Reserve members are still fighting in Afghanistan and other areas where terrorism continues. May God keep them from harm's way and bring them safely home to their loved ones. TIME's selection of the "Protestor" as the person of the year reminds us that the fight for freedom against government oppression and radical theocracies continues in many parts of the world.

OPA's vision is "Guam is the model of good governance in the Pacific". As I have traveled to many island governments in the Pacific, I have come to realize that we on Guam are more fortunate than many of our Pacific Islanders and that our government has progressed far more than our brethren. Yes, we have our problems of an ever increasing deficit, poor roads, health care, and a public education system where the majority of students score at below basic in standardized tests. But we are progressing, albeit at glacial speed.

May 2012 be a blessed and good year for our people and island of Guam.