

Rosa Perez Salas

ROSA TERESITA PEREZ SALAS  
EDUCATOR AND CIVIC LEADER



Rosa Teresita Perez Salas was born in Agana, Guam, on October 8, 1926, the eldest of seven children. She is married to Ricardo Salas and has one son.

Rosa T. P. Salas attended Guam's elementary and secondary schools and graduated with honors (salutatorian) from George Washington High School in 1956. She received a 3-year scholarship from the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English and education (1950). Later, she obtained her M.A. in special education at Los Angeles State College, California, in 1962.

In addition to her academic achievements, Rosa Salas has received many commendations and awards. Some of these honors include: (a) a Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award, (b) a plaque for "Fostering and Enhancing the Employment of the Handicapped," from the Naval Ship Repair Facility, Guam, 1985, (c) a Resolution (#261) from the Guam Legislature for outstanding services, and (d) the honor of being listed in the Who's Who of American Women, 1977-1978, and the World's Who's Who of Women, 1978.

Mrs. Salas served the government and the people as an educator from 1945 to 1955 -- as an elementary teacher, secondary teacher, and then as a College of Guam instructor. After that she served as an assistant principal and program consultant from 1956 to 1964. When she obtained her M.A. in special education, she became Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and the first Headstart Director on Guam (1965-1966). A year later, Mrs. Salas became the Associate Superintendent of Special Education and, at that same time, Acting Director of Education. In 1969, she established the First School for the Blind. From 1969 to 1976, Mrs. Salas served as Chief of Vocational Rehabilitation and later became the first Guamanian Director of Vocational Rehabilitation, a post which she held until her retirement in 1979-1980. In 1984, Mrs. Salas returned to the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation as its director.

In addition to numerous government and family responsibilities, Rosa T. P. Salas has found time to serve on many councils and boards, public and

private. She served on the Commission on Delinquency, Crime and Law Enforcement (1972-1975), the Governor's Advisory Council Commission on Aging (1978-1979), the Board of the Guam Rehabilitation and Workshop Center (1969-1979), the Governor's Committee on Reorganization of the Government of Guam (1983-1984), and on the Guam Job Training Council (1976-1986). She has also been active at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Guam (1980-1983), on the Agana Municipal Council, the Council for State Administrators, the Man Power Planning Council, the Council for Exceptional Children, and the Marianas Association for Retarded Children. Mrs. Salas has served as an officer in her work with all of these councils.

In spite of her involvement with these numerous government agencies, boards and councils, Mrs. Salas is very active with civic duties and charitable organizations. She has been president of PTAs, a church organist (1950-1986), and an officer of the American Cancer Society, Muscular Dystrophy of America, American Red Cross and Lytico and Bodig Association of Guam. She is a charter member and past president of Soroptimist International, an organization of executive women (1978-1986).

Rosa T. P. Salas has three publications on education. The first was her "Education Marches On," published in the Peabody Journal of Education in November, 1966. The second, "Vocational and Social Aspects for the Mentally Retarded on Guam," was published in 1975 in the Japan League for the Mentally Retarded's Report on the Second Asian Conference on Mental Retardation. Her third publication was "Guam Department of Vocational Rehabilitation," published in Educational Perspectives, a journal of the College of Education, University of Hawaii, Vol. 15, No. 4, December, 1976.

Because of Mrs. Rosa T. P. Salas' achievements, accomplishments, and services to the community, she was selected by the Guam committee as one of the two women to receive the award "Most Outstanding Woman of Guam, 1985."