

MARIA ("MALUA") TAISACAN PETER  
POSTAL CLERK



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"MALUA"

Maria Taisacan Peter was born on December 6, 1948, on Saipan Island. She is the third child of Bibiana A. Taisacan and Benedicto Taisacan. Malua's mother died when the child was only 5 years old, and her mother's only sister, Maria Rogolofoi, raised Malua and her three sisters. Malua is of Carolinian descent, and she is fluent in both the Chamorro and the Carolinian languages as well as in English. Malua is married to David Kapileo Peter and has four children.

All of Malua's schooling has been on the island of Saipan. In the first and second grade Malua attended Chalan Kanoa public school. For third grade Malua joined the first group of students to attend Oleai Elementary School in San Jose village. In fourth grade Malua transferred to Mount Carmel School and continued there until she graduated in 1969. Since her high school days Malua has taken several extension course in bilingual education.

During her high school days Malua received training on Guam and in the Headstart Program. She was one of the first teachers in the Headstart Summer Pilot Program on Saipan Island, and for two summers during high school Malua worked as a Headstart teacher and as a parents' coordinator. After graduating from high school, Malua worked for a year as a credit clerk at City Corps Bank on Saipan. And for the past 10 years (1976-86) she has worked as a postal clerk in the main post office on Saipan.

Between 1978 and 1986, Mrs. Peter was involved with several boards and held several high positions. Her most significant contribution has been in the area of bilingual education for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. From 1978 to the present Malua has held the position of chairperson for the Northern Marianas Central Advisory Council, and she has attended the National Advisory Council for Bilingual Education (NABE) in the United States since 1978. She was elected the Pacific Region Parents' Representative in the NABE. From 1977 to 1986 Malua held the position of President of the Carolinian Advisory Council. In 1986, she was elected its Vice President.

Since 1982 she has been a member of the San Jose Parish Council, as well as the State Advisory Council for Vocational Education. She was also a member of the CNMI Liberation Day Committee for 2 years.

From 1985 to the present Mrs. Peter has been the President of the Christian Mothers at San Jose Parish. She is also the Treasurer of the Northern Marianas Women's Association, Vice President of Hopwood Junior High School PTA, and President of Oleai Elementary School PTA. She is presently the Secretary/Treasurer of the Northern Marianas Upward Bound Program. During 1985 Malua was sent as a delegate to the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in the Cook Islands as the representative of the Northern Marianas Women's Association for Pacific Islanders. This year she was elected Vice President of the Northern Marianas Catholic Social Services.

Malua Peter's contribution to the people of the Northern Marianas has been tremendous. As an officer of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), she has voiced her opinions and concerns for the welfare of the students, has volunteered on several occasions for school activities and functions, and has tried to promote the Bilingual Education Programs throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Presently Malua is in the process of forming and organizing a PTA Presidents Organization throughout the schools in the CNMI.

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