

Mendiola

Continued from Page 34

GSPN: Who are some of the players you most enjoyed playing with – and against?

DM: I had the privilege of playing alongside many incredible athletes. Some of my favorite teammates include Jin Han, Ed Pelkey, EJ Calvo, Chris Fernandez, Joey Cepeda, Mike Lee, Carmen Blas, Loyd Lagutang, Willie (Stinnett), and Seve (Susuico) – there are honestly too many to name.

As for opponents, the team that gave me the most consistent challenge was Ace Hardware. Players like JP (Cruz), Francis Benitez, and De'Andre Walker were sharpshooters with deep range and an aggressive style of play. They always brought their best and kept the competition exciting.

GSPN: What inspired you to enter politics, and when did that journey begin?

DM: After completing my military service, I was medically retired due to a battle with cancer. In 2015, I returned home to Rota and began getting involved in local politics. I felt that after serving my country, I



could also serve my island and make a difference.

In 2016 and 2018, I chaired campaigns for other candidates, gaining valuable experience. By 2018, I served as campaign chairman for a former lieutenant governor who was running for Senate—and he won. That victory motivated me to run for office myself.

In 2020, I ran for Senate as a Republican, going up against one of the longest-serving senators. I lost that race, but I didn't let it stop me. In 2022, I ran again and won.

Despite my victory, it was a tough year for the Repub-

lican Party—we were in the minority, and I held no leadership role. However, in the next legislature, we won more seats. One of our members was elected, and I was chosen to serve as Senate President. It was an unusual situation—a freshman senator being elected as presiding officer of the 24th Legislature.

Then, in July 2025, tragedy struck when the Governor of the CNMI passed away. According to the constitution, I ascended to the role of Lieutenant Governor on July 24, 2025. That day changed my life forever.

GSPN: How does your basketball background influence your work in politics and government?

DM: Basketball and politics have more in common than people might think. Both are team sports. Success isn't about individual effort—it's about collaboration, communication, and strategy.

In basketball, no one wins a game alone. You rely on your teammates to execute plays, defend, rebound, and support each other. Politics works the same way. You need to build alliances, use available resources wisely, and work together to

GUAM SPORTS NETWORK
Team Guam in 2007 at the South Pacific Games in Samoa. Guam would beat the home team in the semis in a huge game, but fell to Fiji in the finals to settle for silver. From left, around the table, Jin Han, Joey Cepeda, Willie Stinnett, Chris Fernandez, Dennis Mendiola, and EJ Calvo.

achieve your goals.

If you walk into government thinking you'll make change alone, you'll quickly realize how wrong that is. True progress comes when a team of people shares a vision, trusts each other, and puts in the hard work – just like on the court. When everyone plays their role and brings their unique skills to the table, the chances of success increase dramatically.



GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Physical/Mailing Address:
194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje
Professional Bldg. Suite 209
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Tuesday, August 26, 2025
at 8:30 a.m. (Guam ChST)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88407687347?pwd=olyw63dLI3kPaAZMH0F04SGVCBFLL3.1>

Meeting ID: 884 0768 7347
Passcode: 848735

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Proof of Publications
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Treasurer's Report
- VII. HPLO Administrator's Report
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. The Practice Act Revision (TPA) – ongoing discussion
 - b. Rules and Regulations Proposed Revision 2.0 – ongoing discussion
 - c. Complaint GBEO-CO-2025-001
- IX. New Business
 - a. Renewal Applications
 - b. Vision Exam (online process)
- X. Next Board Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to
<https://guamoptometry.org>
LIVE Streaming link
https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings_list/gbeo

This advertisement was paid for by DPHSS/Health Professional Licensing Office-Local Funds.
For more information, please contact the Board office at 735-7404/10 thru 12. Persons needing a telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact 475-8339.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ADVANCE DEADLINES:

PUBLICATION DATES

Wednesday, August 27, 2025
Thursday, August 28, 2025
Friday, August 29, 2025
Saturday, August 30, 2025
Sunday, August 31, 2025
Monday, September 1, 2025
Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
Thursday, September 4, 2025

RESERVATION DATES

Monday, August 25, 12 Noon
Tuesday, August 26, 12 Noon
Tuesday, August 26, 12 Noon
Wednesday, August 27, 12 Noon
Wednesday, August 27, 12 Noon
Wednesday, August 27, 12 Noon
Thursday, August 28, 12 Noon
Friday, August 29, 12 Noon
Tuesday, September 2, 12 Noon

CAMERA READY DEADLINE

Tuesday, August 26, 2 pm
Wednesday, August 27, 2 pm
Wednesday, August 27, 2 pm
Thursday, August 28, 2 pm
Thursday, August 28, 2 pm
Thursday, August 28, 2 pm
Friday, August 29, 2 pm
Tuesday, September 2, 2 pm
Wednesday, September 3, 2 pm

*The Pacific Daily News Staff and their families
wish everyone a "Happy Labor Day!"*



PACIFIC DAILY NEWS
guampdn.com