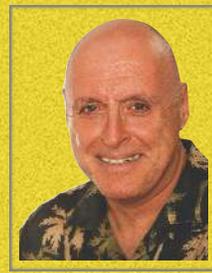


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



553 Some Well Deserved Recognition is Due

Monday makes one month that Guam has been in official lockdown mode. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, let's give out a little recognition for work well done, next on The Extra Point.

The governor's executive order to close most businesses and government offices went into effect on March 20. While most of us have been hunkered down, there are a number of people who have been working, those deemed essential. For them it might be a bit of a mixed bag, as they're happy to have a job and earning a check, but no doubt are exposed to greater risk than those of us who are inside most of the time.

So let's start by recognizing the people in retail stores and gas stations. I've met a lot in the last month who are doing their best to provide service, and trying to add a little extra touch of friendliness.

One key piece of praise we need to give them is working hard to keep shelves stocked. We can't ignore the psychological benefit we got from realizing that most of what we wanted was going to be there when we went after it. Hoarding generally stopped when people understood the retailers would be able to supply their needs.

Next up, GPA and GWA. There have been a few hiccups in the delivery of power and water, but in the larger picture they have both come through at a critical time.

Banks and credit unions deserve praise. There are some long lines and hours of operation are shorter, yet people are able to handle their financial transactions easily enough. Of course, their work is now even more important as workers are processing SBA loan requests for qualifying businesses.

Restaurants and delivery services, step up and take a bow. Takeout hasn't been a huge factor in Guam's food business to this point, but I

think that will now change. As long as delivery charges don't escalate I think this sector of the industry will do much better from here on out.

Hospital workers, clinics, doctors — thank you for your service, given while you put yourselves at risk of catching the virus — and some have.

Guam Police and the National Guard get a nod. GPD still has to deal with all their normal activities, then have been tasked to join with the National Guard to do the checkpoints. I'm sure they aren't interested in standing out in the heat for hours and hours, so thanks for your patience, especially when some motorists have lost theirs and complain.

Let's also give recognition to Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. While she's been hammered by many people over asking for greater powers to exert stricter controls on everyday life and activities, she deserves credit for putting the lockdown in place. The numbers tell the story, as infections have slowed. We need to be fair here. If you're going to criticize the things you think she gets wrong, then be willing to acknowledge when her actions prove effective.

I'm sure there are a lot more people to give recognition to, but because time is limited I need to add you...yes, you...you've done your part by staying at home, using good hygiene, social distancing, and helping others. It all works because you do what you need to do. Now, keep it up. We've still got a long ways to go.

That's The Extra Point. Stay home and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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