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Carmen Artero Kasperbauer
July 20, 1994

Interview conducted by Daniel Martinez
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July 2024, Cultural Reviewer's Note: (1) Out of respect for Mrs. Kasperbauer it should be noted that English is her second language. (2) Also important to note is that during the whole experience that she described, they were speaking in her native Chamorro language.

Interviewee: Carmen Artero Kasperbauer

Civilian in Guam

Interviewer: Daniel Martinez

Hilton Hotel - Guam

Date: July 20th, 1994

— 00:00:00

AUDIO DESCRIPTION: Carmen Kasperbauer is a CHamoru woman with short hair, glasses, pearl jewelry, and a floral patterned white dress. Behind her is a white lamp against a white wall.

— 00:00:16

Q: The following oral history interview was conducted at the Hilton Hotel in Guam on July 20th 1994 at 3:00 pm. Its purpose was to record the oral history of Mrs. Carmen Kasperbauer, who was a young civilian girl in Guam during World War II. This interview is being made by the National Park Service War in the Pacific National Historical Park in conjunction with KGTF Channel 12 in Guam. Mrs. Kasperbauer, I understand that the National Park Service has your permission to make this recording and to retain all literary and property rights deriving from it. Is that correct?

Kasperbauer: I guess so, yes.

Q: For the record, Carmen, if I could be informal like that. Can you state your full and complete name and also could you give us both names, your maiden name and now your married name.

—01:01:19

Kasperbauer: My name was Carmen Torres Artero.

Q: How do you spell that last name?

Kasperbauer: ARTERO. And now my name is Carmen Artero Kasperbauer.

Q: And how do you spell that last name?

Kasperbauer: KASPERBAUER.

Q: Where were you born and what was the year?

--01:01:48

Kasperbauer: I was born in Agana, Guam. August 8th 1935, to **Josefa** Perez Torres Artero and Antonio Cruz Artero.

Q: How many children were there in the family?

Kasperbauer: I am the second oldest of 12 children.

Q: Can you for the record remember all of their names?

--01:02:14

Kasperbauer: My oldest sister is Maria, and then like I said, I came second, Rosita, Josephine, Antonio, Jose or Joseph, Virginia, Franklin, then Eleanor, Margaret, **Pascual** and Victor.

Q: Wow that is quite a family. Is that a typical Catholic family here in Guam? A large family?

Kasperbauer: Yes, between nine and 15 or whatever.

Q: Where would you consider the place that you grew up in here, in Guam? What area or township?

--01:03:07

Kasperbauer: Like I said, I was born in Agana, so we were living in Agana and -

Q: Did you go to school there?

Kasperbauer: No, in those days, I think children have to be seven years old to go to school and the war started when I was six and a half years old. So I didn't really go to school. I used to tag along with my sister Maria, because my mom's sister was a teacher. In fact, I was in a play in school for my Auntie's class and I was a clown. And when the war broke out, on December 8th, that Monday, my sister and I were dressed like angels in **the cathedral. Mass had already started.**

Q: This was a special religious holiday?

Kasperbauer: Yes, it's the feast of the Immaculate Conception and it's the patron saint of the island and Guam being predominantly Catholic, it's the feast day and fiesta day for everyone.

Q: So that day was a special day for Guamanian people or Chamorro people and the war starts.

--01:04:21

Kasperbauer: Yes. We were in the church when the planes were coming and I heard the droning of the plane and I thought it was Pan Am Clipper and I got excited, because not only children, but even adults, when we hear the Pan Am Clipper, everybody would drop everything and run out to look at it and start waving their scarf or bandana or whatever. And so I started nudging my sister and said, Pan Am, Pan Am! And then I listened some more and it was – sounded like a whole lot of Pan Ams were coming so I could hardly wait

to get out to go see. And my sister was nudging me back to keep still, but I said, there is a lot of Pan Ams, I want to go see, can we go see? Then I think it was almost communion time or whatever and things – then the grownups started murmuring and then Bishop **Olano** stopped also and started to listen and **then later on** he made an announcement to the people. Of course, we little ones didn't understand, because **he was Spanish and his Chamorro** was difficult to understand. But later on we understood him to have said that when – if the planes **will** leave, then we are not going to continue with the Mass, and we are just going to go and everybody go home.

--01:05:52

So when they left, when the planes left, we saw all the grownups panicking, running out of the church.

Q: Was bombing going on while you were in the church?

Kasperbauer: Yeah, somewhere nearby, I think they bombed where the chimney stack was in Agana and over by **Sumay**.

Q: So you heard this rumbling going on and obviously the adults knew it was bombing, not the Pan Am clippers.

--01:06:18

Kasperbauer: And there were a lot of planes and I guess they knew it was not Pan Am.

Q: So when you got out of the church, what did you see?

Kasperbauer: Women holding their high heels and looking ridiculous, running all over, like crazy and my sister and I got scared because my dad came to church with us, but we couldn't find him and we didn't know which way was home. So we were lost. And then my auntie found us and grabbed our hands and was holding her high heels and running. And then when another plane came in, coming, swooping down, she grabbed us both and shoved us under somebody's house and I ended landing on top of a turtle that was nesting in there.

After that, she took us home. When we got home, there was my dad and my mom already in the car.

--01:07:15

Q: Home was somewhere here in Agana?

Kasperbauer: Yes, **in** Agana. And the little ones – my mom just gave birth in October to my sister Virginia and our brother Joseph, who was not even a year old when my mother gave birth to Virginia, was being taken care of by my grandmother, so we were separated at that time. And my dad was saying - hop in, hop in! For us to hop in and I didn't want to hop in, because I wanted to go back upstairs – we had a two story house and the first floor was used as a restaurant, called the Blue Front and our house was upstairs. And I wanted to run upstairs to get my clown suit. Because that was my precious belonging that I'm going to take my clown suit. And so, and my dad said, come in, we need to go. And people were swarming over to our car.

Q: Where were you going to go? Flee the town? Get away from the bombing?

--01:08:18

Kasperbauer: And so finally I got my clown suit, I just slipped away from all the grownups and I went up and got my clown suit and my dad grabbed me from the stairs and got in the car and the car was not really like a regular car.

Q: How is that?

Kasperbauer: It was like a jitney or something like that. And so we started heading out of Agana and people were on top of the car, on the side of the car, on the hood of the car.

Q: People were just panicking?

Kasperbauer: Yes, and crying, Antonio, Antonio, please give us a ride. And so we took as many as we could.

Q: Did you witness anybody being killed during the bombing? Did you see any of that?

Kasperbauer: No, I didn't see, all I saw was people panicking and running and -

Q: That must have been frightening for a six year old girl?

--01:09:05

Kasperbauer: It was. It was very scary. And we went on up to Taguac, that's our family property. Taguac is in the back area of Dededo. It's condemned by the military; it's called NCS for a while, now it's called **NCTAM**.

Q: Now that is north of Agana, right?

Kasperbauer: Well, it's up north, yeah, past Tamuning, **Tumon in Dededo**.

Q: There is so much to talk about, so we are going to just take little segments. That certainly covers the December 7th (**December 8 in Guam**) attack. I would like to just jump ahead and I'm sure there are many more stories, but obviously your family had a strong connection to George Tweed. What were your recollections about this whole George Tweed business? Can you kind of fill us in a little?

--01:10:00

Kasperbauer: Well, Mr. Juan **Pangelinan** was the adjacent farm to our farm in Taguac, and my dad was out mending a fence and – or I think Mr. **Pangelinan** came to our ranch house and told my dad that the fence is broken and he wanted to show him where it was. And my dad, because it's eating his corn and other crop. And my dad said, if they are eating, we will just butcher the cow that is there. But he said, no, no, come please, I want to show you. And he was very persistent, so my dad went with him and he said when they got there, the fence was not broken at all. And that is when he told him that Tweed was at

his place and the Japanese had been searching for Tweed – from the beginning of the war when they found out that he went into hiding with other Navy men. And -

Q: Yeah, basically the Japanese landed and there was some opposition in the landing, but they were overwhelmed by the numbers and those that surrendered, surrendered, but several of them, George Tweed being one of them, went to the hills to hide, right?

--01:11:27

Kasperbauer: From what I understood, Tweed was the only radio man left behind and his task was to destroy all vital communication and he didn't complete that because he was in the process of doing it when the Japanese invaded the island. So the Japanese came upon the Navy radio and code, but they didn't know how to work on it. So they went through the prisoner of war list and found out that he was not there, so they did a **roll** call and found out that some others were not there. And that was the beginning of the search party for them. Anyway, going back to that day, Mr. **Pangelinan** wanted my dad to take Tweed to his brother's place up in Upi, which is now Anderson Air Force base. Because Upi is larger, very, very large land and he felt that Tweed can be hidden there better. And my dad said -

Q: [unintelligible]

Kasperbauer: Well, if you imagine, you know, right now where Anderson Air Force Base is, belonged to my family. And it was very, very huge. And so Mr. **Pangelinan** thought that my uncle Jesus can find a better place for Tweed there and not be detected, because the place is so difficult to get at in some areas.

--01:13:00

But my dad refused to do that. Because my uncle is a very well known person and very personable and very well liked and he was a leader in the community in Yigo. And he felt that the Japanese will eventually learn, right away, about Mr. Tweed and my dad didn't want his brother and family to be killed. And so my dad kept refusing and then my dad started to turn to leave Mr. **Pangelinan** took out his machete and started chopping away

and my dad got scared and said, “John, John, what are you doing?” Because he thought that Mr. **Pangelinan** was going to kill him because his secret is out. And Mr. **Pangelinan** said, oh, I’m just going to cut some sword grass - I guess, for his cattle.

--01:14:04

So my dad went on the path and then as he was walking on the path home, this man jump up in front of him and the way my dad said it, he said, when this man jumped up in front of him, he didn’t see Tweed. I even get emotional because I never saw my dad cry. He was shaking and he said, because he’s a very good catholic and he said, I didn’t see Tweed, I saw my – my vision was that of Jesus Christ in front of Pontius Pilate. I saw long, straggly matted hair and very skinny and hallowed eyes and looking at me, pleadingly. You know, like, please help me. And then he said, I just felt like, God says I’m my brother’s keeper. So I just knew that I would do what I can to help him. So he went home and told mom and then he went and told his dad and asked permission to hide him.

--01:15:18

My grandfather gave my dad permission and also his brother Joe, Uncle Joe, was **called** to help out. So my dad and Uncle Joe helped find the place and fix -

Q: Which would later be called Tweed’s Cave, right?

Kasperbauer: It’s not really a cave, it’s **the** narrow slit between two cliffs and it’s very, very jagged and it’s almost impossible to get **to** it.

Q: But they knew of it because it was on their property.

Kasperbauer: Right.

Q: Did **your** family or your dad realize the risks he was taking? With all of those children, he had 12 children.

Kasperbauer: Well, at that time, there were only 8 of us.

Q: Still, that is a large family.

Kasperbauer: Yes, but the people of Guam, many, many Chamorros hid Tweed before he came to my father's and mother's hand.

--01:16:14

Q: How long had he been in hiding, would you say, was it two or three months?

Kasperbauer: Well, he had been in hiding from the beginning of the war and this was October of 1942.

Q: When your father - ?

Kasperbauer: Yeah, when he came to our -

Q: So almost a year.

Kasperbauer: 21 months.

Q: There had been incidences, of course, in which – did any of that take place, in which the Japanese began executing people that they thought were hiding Tweed?

--01:16:43

Kasperbauer: They were – punishing people, I think shortly after they started searching for Tweed and in fact, when they see **any** Chamorro that is very fair complexion and kind of light brown hair or – there is a family that has kind of reddish hair, I think the Bell family. Of course they are mixed Stateside and Chamorro, they were taken and accosted by the Japanese and also punished because they were suspected to be Americans. And other Chamorros have to come out and verify that they are not Americans, that they are

Chamorros. But many Chamorros went and hid Tweed, even from the beginning, because they love – the people love America and they love Americans and because they believe in the principle of American democracy. And even though they were not in uniform and recruited, drafted to fight the war, I felt that all the grownups at that time were soldiers of America, fighting this war.

--01:18:05

Q: Do you remember meeting George Tweed at all? Did you remember meeting him as a young girl?

Kasperbauer: No, the only time that I ever came close to him was the night that he came – the first night that he came to our place, because there was a lot of activities and my mom was heating up water and my dad was helping her heat water for him to take a bath outside, I guess, and my mom was preparing food and it was late at night already and I kept asking, what is going on and they told me to go in the bedroom. And they sent all the children into the bedroom.

--01:18:43

Q: So they didn't want you children to know what was going on, for fear you might say something, right? Did you ever accompany your father partially down the trail to the cave at all? Or – I remember reading something about that, and they left you behind.

Kasperbauer: **Also** that night my mom was doing laundry, which I thought was unusual.

Q: How did they do the laundry in those days?

Kasperbauer: They had what we call "**batteya**" and it's a big piece of wood with four sides and a little hole and they use corn cob to scrub and you keep pouring water and scrubbing.

Q: That's hard work, isn't it?

Kasperbauer: Yes. And then so the next morning I woke up and I saw these khaki pants on the line, so I went and I asked my mom, whose pants was that? And she said that it was her brother, Uncle Pete. But they are up in Barrigada, so I couldn't figure out, why did she have to wash Uncle Pete's brown pants?

--01:19:44

Because my dad was not wearing that kind of – blue pants, because my dad was wearing brown pants all the time.

Q: It strikes me that you always have been **an** inquisitive person, is that true?

Kasperbauer: Yes.

Q: And rather independent?

Kasperbauer: Yes.

--01:20:02

Q: That's part of your personality; would that be fair to say?

Kasperbauer: I guess so, always want to know and find out what is going on. So anyway, when she said it was Uncle Pete's pants, but I **refused** to believe it. But after that, then my dad was always going every so often with some things in a gunny sack. Later on, when the Japanese were trying to **build the lighthouse** in our area, they used our path to go there. So my dad used to take me with him and he would give me an empty gunny sack and when we would get to the bottom of the cliff, he will give me the empty gunny sack to pick federico nuts while he would go up to Tweed and give him his provisions.

Q: So if they got stopped by the Japanese, he could explain why he was there and he would have this – very interesting. Your father is a very clever man, himself.

Kasperbauer: Yes, I guess, especially we were carrying food, and so – and I keep saying, why are we taking food? We are always hungry; we never have enough because the Japanese are always taking it away.

--01:21:11

Q: They would come to your house and take food away?

Kasperbauer: Oh, all the time. Especially, they liked to come during meal time and then just push all of us away from the table and they would sit and eat and then take whatever else they could find. So sometimes we would go without a meal.

Q: Did they ever hit you? They would just barge in and sit and eat?

Kasperbauer: Yeah.

Q: Sort of like a bad fairy tale. Like the bad bear is coming to your house.

Kasperbauer: So anyway, that is how my dad and mom took care of Tweed.

--02:21:48

Q: You have some pictures here; can you share these pictures with us? You can just stick them right in front of you and the camera will pick them up. And just kinda briefly describe them to us.

Kasperbauer: This is the lookout, or rather; right on this cliff is where Tweed's cave is hidden. And from this vantage point you can see all the way, even to Asan.

Q: So he could even see where the Japanese were coming?

Kasperbauer: Right. And from here, you could see all the way down to Asan Point and in fact that is what I used also to look – to watch the invasion.

Q: Oh, you watched the invasion from there too? Okay, let's look at another one. You can just bring it right up.

--01:22:45

Kasperbauer: And this is inside the cave.

Q: This was taken inside the cave?

Kasperbauer: Yes. But this picture was taken after the war, maybe in 19 -

Q: Can you point out who those people are?

Kasperbauer: I don't – recall who are the other two fellows, but this is my father.

Q: That is your father, okay.

--01:23:05

The local man, you don't know who that is? How about your other picture, that is taken inside the cave.

Kasperbauer: The reason I want I want to show you is because it's very narrow between that cliff and this here and it's – we have all this roots of this palm tree and the jagged coral rock on the bottom and that is where we have to lie down and sleep or just cower in the corner. This is a picture of my father and my grandfather.

Q: Your father and your grandfather. You said your father went to get permission from your grandfather.

Kasperbauer: Yes, because even though the land is put under his children's name, it is still his property. And –

--01:23:56

Q: And that is a Hispanic tradition. You don't do things without permission of your father.

Kasperbauer: Even running for office, political office, right now, nobody can run without calling the family for a meeting to ask the family's permission.

Q: Who are these people?

Kasperbauer: Now this is a recent picture of my mother and father with Tweed. This was taken in 1981.

Q: Are your mother and father still with us or have they passed?

Kasperbauer: No, they – my father died in 1984 and Mr. Tweed died January of 1989 and my mom died in February.

--01:24:47

Q: I think what they want you to do, with the next picture, is kind of hold them closer to your chest, because the focus is such that you need them closer, okay?

Kasperbauer: This was taken, again, after the war.

Q: About 1946-47? When did Tweed return?

Kasperbauer: Geez, I have to look to my papers – I don't know if it's '47 – when he presented the car to my dad.

Q: He presented a car to your father?

Kasperbauer: Yes. It was a token of appreciation by the Chevrolet Company.

--01:25:21

Q: How nice though. Now where – your dad is right in the center.

Kasperbauer: Okay, this is my dad and this is Tweed. And this is mom's sisters and this is my uncle and I don't know who the others.

Q: You are not in that picture.

Kasperbauer: No.

Q: Is this the car?

Kasperbauer: These are my three brothers with the Chevrolet. In front of our store.

Q: What happened to that car?

--01:25:50

Kasperbauer: It rusted out, you know how Guam is. Everything is -

Q: That's too bad, that would be a wonderful artifact, huh? Be worth a lot of money.

Kasperbauer: This is a picture of my dad and mom and Tweed with all of us kids.

Q: Now where are you in that picture?

Kasperbauer: Right there.

Q: There you are, right there.

Kasperbauer: My older sister, Maria.

--01:26:16

Q: That's a wonderful picture. That's the whole family?

Kasperbauer: Yes. One is missing I think.

Q: Where is this picture taken? Do you remember?

Kasperbauer: After the war we had to move up to Agana Heights, where my father's mother's **brother's** property.

Q: You have this letter by George Tweed, this is his letter that he left. Can you talk a little bit about that?

--01:26:49

Kasperbauer: July 10 of 1944, during the heavy bombardment, George decided to try signaling the American battleships that were out offshore of Guam. So he devised a signal. I don't know about signaling. He used this paper to work his map, just to keep himself busy so that he won't go crazy and I think this is his signal. I don't know whether it's supposed to be held this way or this way, I have no idea how signals are done.

Q: But he made those notes.

Kasperbauer: But this is the signal that he used to ask – to get the destroyer.

Q: He left this note where? By the cave?

Kasperbauer: Yeah, he left it on the cave.

--01:28:01

Q: For your father?

Kasperbauer: Yes.

Q: He left. It doesn't say "good-bye" though.

Kasperbauer: No, he didn't think it was going to be good-bye, I guess. He just said. He said, *"My dearest friend, a destroyer is sending in a boat to take me aboard. God bless you my friend and if we both shall live – if we both live until war is over, you will surely hear from me. Your true life-long friend. Monday evening, July 10, 7:00 pm. Please keep the things for me that I may want."*

Q: And that was probably one of them, huh?

--01:28:55

Kasperbauer: No, he had some of his personal belongings that he wanted to keep.

[tape cuts briefly]

Not necessarily commonwealth, morally I feel that both nations have an obligation to –

[tape cuts briefly]

Q: Carmen, you have a picture here, can you describe who the woman is and what the picture is of?

Kasperbauer: Somebody took a picture of my mom holding the letter that Tweed left in the cave before he was picked up by the boat from the destroyer that came in **on that July 10**.

Q: That was a treasured document of your family's, right?

--01:29:53

Kasperbauer: Yes.

Q: And you have not decided where you are going to have this preserved yet, have you?

Kasperbauer: No? **Well, what** I would like very much to see happen is that – I feel like the two nations, America and Japan, **war** between each other and they used our land and us people as their battlefield. That war destroyed our culture, never again to be the same. And I feel that neither has made retribution and reconciliation of that war. And I feel that many Chamorros fought because of their belief and love and trust in America and they have not been recognized. And I felt that America had no right to negotiate with Japan on war settlement without a thought of us people in Guam.

--01:31:04

Q: Isn't that true though of all Pacific Islanders were not consulted on these things?

Kasperbauer: Well, not necessarily, because Japan made retribution to Saipan and the Northern Marianas and other islands.

Q: Do you think that would be fair for the people of Hawaii to expect that in light of what happened in Pearl Harbor?

Kasperbauer: I think so. And I feel that the kind of retribution that I would like to see happen is for a formal apology by Japan to the people of Guam for the atrocities that – to me, they committed horrendous war crimes on the people and up to now, it has not been –

--01:31:48

Q: Were the Japanese tried for these war crimes?

Kasperbauer: Whatever war crime that was tried, maybe it's a war crime between the crime that was done to Americans, but not to – to our knowledge, not to -

Q: So no Chamorros were called to testify as to what happened?

Kasperbauer: No, we **had** no idea even a war crime tribunal was conducted and therefore I feel that Japan should make this retribution because of the war crimes they committed.

Q: So these wrongs that you feel very strongly about have not been addressed.

Kasperbauer: Right, and not only I, but all of us, even the older ones. Especially the older ones. But I'm not asking for – you know, the **people of Guam** are not asking for a lot. All we are asking is that if they can please build us a huge museum, so we can house a lot of **our artifacts** and also I feel that in order for our children to understand where they're at now, they have to know their history, their past, and what happened, so **that they can very well understand** why we are what we are right now. So they can make **decisions** of what to decide to do for the future.

--01:33:08

Q: Is that why you have held back donating the Tweed letter to the National Park Service? Because you think that in the future, you think that there could be a home for it, and it would be very important to the Chamorro for it to be there.

Kasperbauer: Yes, and I really feel that we don't have the money to build this museum and I feel that the – America and Japan should at least do that and also to build a performing arts center because a lot of our young people do like to dance and we have a lot of artistic talent that need to be used and also it would be a way of economic development for the island, by all the visiting tourists can come to see.

Q: Who have you approached with this idea?

--01:34:07

Kasperbauer: When I was a senator, I introduced a resolution to that effect and the late **Senator Chilang Bamba** and I both were trying to come up with war reparation, you know, bills and resolution and the Japanese consulate here in Guam came and approached us. **He begged** us not to do anything because the war between American and Japan has

already been settled. And this is a – he said, it's making his country ashamed for it to come out. And that even angered me a little bit, because I feel like if you are ashamed, then be strong and say you are sorry and do something about it, not just try to hide it.

Q: In light of as much Japanese businesses here, what effect does that have?

--01:35:07

Kasperbauer: Well, the older – those of us who are older, are still feeling the pain that they have not really made retribution. And then the other **pain** we have is that a lot of our private land had been taken away - **forced taking** and they started doing the forced taking – the Americans did this, in 1946. But then when they realized that we are not US citizens, they took upon the idea that ah-ha, they wanted to be Americans, so let's have Congress make them US citizens. So we became US citizens through an act of Congress. And that way, it legitimized the land taking. But they didn't take it justly and now there is a lot of unused military land because – they told us at first it's going to be for national defense, but now they are downsizing and they don't know what to do with the surplus land, so instead of giving it back to the people who owned it, they wanted to give it to different non-profit organizations in the States.

--01:36:25

In fact, one group wanted to use the land for homeless. One other group for HIV victims and another group, for the Audubon Society. You know, we don't have land for our children. Look at all our young children who are landless. And I feel that if we want peace and we want forgiveness, then let's right the wrong now.

Q: So you have two issues you are dealing with here, which is very important to you. First of all, have you given up on the Japanese, for them to help build these -

Kasperbauer: No, I have not given up.

Q: What happened to your bill?

Kasperbauer: Well, it was a resolution requesting the federal government to -

Q: Was that passed by the – by the Guam government?

--01:37:17

Kasperbauer: Though it was passed, resolution really has no effect of law and Congress **don't** have **to** think or even act on it, so nothing ever came about.

Q: Do you think if you were to re-introduce this again, as a resolution, I know you are not active, but someone does that, that it would have more support than it had before? To me, it appears that the political climate in Guam is changing.

Kasperbauer: I would feel that instead of Congressman Underwood asking for so many millions of dollars to give to the people who were killed and forced labor, um, the money is just going to disappear right away and you can never put a price on death and crime, atrocities committed, so I thought building the museum and a performing arts center and an art gallery, and set aside scholarship money, both countries would set aside scholarship money for the children of the descendants of the Chamorro people who went **through** this horrifying thing or episode or rather, event in the war, that that would be a more lasting retribution and it will help our people to grow up more maturely in peace and harmony and create a better world.

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Q: What kind of support do you have? What about the governor, lieutenant governor, people in politics? Do you have that support for this? Or what is their feelings about this movement?

Kasperbauer: I don't think right now they have a mind about it, other than appropriate so much money. I hope that I can convince our leaders to think this way because to me -

Q: What about Delegate Underwood? Have you talked to him a little bit about this?

Kasperbauer: No, not my idea, I have not yet approached him about it.

Q: Since the last time I saw you, you were kind of developing this, it looks like it has been something you have been thinking a lot about. And you are a very strong woman and person and I suspect you are going to carry this forward, is that the plan?

Kasperbauer: Yes. I don't think I can rest until I see that it be done. As I talk to more and more people, especially the young ones, they are really enthused about it.

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They like the idea very, very much.

Q: What is your feeling about the Chamorro nation as a movement? This seems to be a fairly strong – they are very confrontational in their movement, how do you feel about them?

Kasperbauer: The reason why I feel that they are going the way they are going on things is because of the same feeling that I have expressed to you. That their parents and grandparents have not been dealt with properly and there have been a lot of **abuse that happened** to them and it has not been – they have not been recognized or given the right financial means or way of life, so I feel that they probably won't be in agreement or in concert with what I have-

Q: Do you sympathize with them at all?

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Kasperbauer: Oh, very, very much.

Q: At Asan Overlook, I was there the other day and it's a beautiful park, in my view, and I was **struck** by the portion of it that deals with the occupation, the attack, the occupation and the liberation, specifically **towards** your people. How do you feel about the Asan Overlook? And when the names are finally put up there of the Chamorro people. Do you feel positive about that, or do you – I want to know exactly how you feel about that.

Kasperbauer: Well, I feel very good about it, however, I feel like it's just the beginning.

Q: It's the beginning?

Kasperbauer: It's the beginning. And I want my – our young people on the island to not carry the pain and burden of hate because of what has happened.

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Q: Were there young people up at the mass you were talking about? **At Manenggon**. Were there young people there?

Kasperbauer: There were a lot of young people there and a lot of them heard the story from their parents and grandparents and the mass was really beautiful and everybody was caught in the spirit of sharing the **anguish** and pain and then later, the joy that the **wall** was there, and the names of **their** loved ones were there. Even though it's not a complete listing of those that died, at least it's a beginning, it's a start. And at the end of the mass, we had a big fiesta, **like usual, we always** try to make ourselves feel good by socializing happily, and then we had entertainment and it's very, very local entertainment and a lot of the little children are the entertainers, dancing and singing and it was wonderful spirit of unity.

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And the greatest thing that happened, I thought that last night, was **Father Villagomez** who was from Saipan, [crying] he stood in front of all of us and he asked us for forgiveness for what his uncles did to those **Chamorros of Guam** whom his uncles abused during the

war. Because Saipan is owned by Japan and a lot of the Saipanese were thought to be loyal to Japan and some of them were brought to Guam to be used as interpreters, but they were also used to punish the people.

Q: In what manner did they punish them?

Kasperbauer: Well, by beating the people. **By whatever** means of punishment that they had to inflict on those that were punished, and I thought that was so big of him to ask forgiveness because the people of Guam and the northern Marianas are all one people. We are all related and that war has caused a lot of pain and division in our people and that too **is another beginning.**

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Q: This whole – I always have a problem with the word “celebration” and I cannot understand why that word is used. They used it at Pearl Harbor and it bothered me. We weren’t celebrating anything. We were observing. And when I see this 50th anniversary celebration, the liberation was the reality of the war finally coming to an end, but it certainly didn’t settle anything.

Kasperbauer: Right, it’s not really – to me, the only thing that we can consider celebration is that, the end of the suffering ended and the people were being forced to leave their homes and hide in the jungle and be beaten or massacred, the celebration is the end of that. But as far as the people of Guam being given their rights and for liberty and pursuit of their life, that has not been actualized yet.

Q: What does this all mean, this 50th anniversary, to you?

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Kasperbauer: To me, it’s really just a mark of time that it happened and for us, the veterans **that** came now to see what they did was worth it all, we want to show them that we appreciated them very much and yes, it was worth that they came to sacrifice

themselves to end the war. I know they were doing it to recapture the island for America as a strategic area in the Pacific, but as a consequence of that, I guess the ripple effect is that the Chamorros were freed from that oppression and hostility of war, so in that respect, yes, we were celebrating the end of that terrible war and celebrating the sacrifice and we are all deeply honored and appreciative of all the work that they did. And we are not against the veterans, because we feel that once they realized what was going on, they made changes in their plans on how to attack the island, to care for the natives. In the beginning, the natives were not part of their thoughts and their plan, from what I understood.

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But as some natives swam out to the ship to tell them where the natives are and when Tweed got on board -

Q: He told them things.

Kasperbauer: He told them and so that made a lot of difference in their decision making from then on. So we really appreciate them for doing that. We realize that after all, they are human and they are Christian also.

Q: Let me tell you a story and you can react to this. I was interviewing a Marine the other day and he was over by the marshland area and in the distance he could see what he thought were civilians and then he saw soldier uniforms, Japanese soldier uniforms. He didn't know what was going on, but suddenly he saw the civilians were all being lined up, they were all in a straight line and the Japanese then shot them down. He said it was too far from a rifle shot, but he knew that the Japanese had done that to show them. And he said that then he was aware of the stories that were told on the ship, that there were civilians here.

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And he was angry and filled with hate. And so after that, he didn't take prisoners. And then he finally saw – he saw some Japanese women that, they had literally been thrown out

to **draw** fire. And they helped carry that woman away and he was on the patrol that came across some Chamorro people and helped carry **a** baby. And it just struck him that he was so far away from home and here he was with these people and he was all of I think, 19 or 20. So that is his remembrance of this war.

Kasperbauer: And I can feel for him and empathize with him, because I do have a son who is a Navy pilot right now and he was sent to the Gulf War during the Iraq-Kuwait War and he was one of the planes in the very first wave to initiate the war. And there I feel – I raised my son to be a good Christian and to be an upright citizen and I think every country does that. You want to have your best to be the soldiers.

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But then you have the best of one nation and the best of another nation and then for them to destroy each other, it's – it's inhuman that nations will do that. It's not – I feel like it's not even human intelligence working any more, it's some evil brutality.

Q: Which seems to exist in the world throughout history.

Kasperbauer: I know, but I think that as the world of mankind grows, we have to find a way to restrain our brutal nature and suppress it so that we can create a more loving world and with the Japanese, I know that there were good Japanese and there were bad Japanese. One Japanese officer, who was here in Guam right in the beginning of the war, befriended my mom when my **mom and us kids** were in line to get rice. And after that, he used to come to our house. That was before we had to stay in hiding up in Taguac. After we went up in hiding, we came back to Agana and stayed there for a few months, so he used to come to our house and I learned to sing *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, from his lap.

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I was six and a half years old, remember?

Q: So he was not mean or brutal?

Kasperbauer: No, he taught all of us kids to sing American songs, *Row, Row Your Boat*, and he became very close friends with my mom and dad. And before he left, he gave my mom and dad a picture of himself and his wife and his little boy, who was maybe like four years old, and a little baby girl that the wife was holding. We had that picture, my mom had that picture, even after the war, I don't know what happened to it.

Q: Do you know what ever happened to him?

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Kasperbauer: He said that he hated his country, going into war with America and he cried and he and my mom and dad cried. This was before Tweed came to our place, you know. And he said, he didn't want to go war and he didn't want his country to go to war against America because he loved America and he was a graduate of Harvard University and he had lots of good friends in America. And he gave the picture to my mom and dad. It's his only picture, he said, I have a feeling I'm not going to make this war. I'm never going to see my family again. And I guess his ship was destroyed.

Q: So he didn't make it.

Kasperbauer: Right. So see what I mean, there are terrible Japanese who brutalized our people here in **Guam - raped them, terrorized them, and persecuted them. But** then there were Japanese who were good too. And so – and then there were Americans **that were not** very good and then there were Americans that were very good.

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Q: Before we close this interview, is there any story that you feel is important to you, that you would like to tell? That we may have overlooked or something you have never told anybody before? It's appropriate on this 50th anniversary.

Kasperbauer: Well, I can tell the time that we were hiding in Tweed's cave. Before we got there, we were getting ready to go to **Manengggon** because we were **ordered** to go. But when the Americans were bombing everywhere, we had to go into hiding and we ended up hiding with the **Pangelinan** family and my grandfather's family and then two Chamorros came and took Mr. **Pangelinan** away and everybody was crying because they didn't want him to go. And they said that the Japanese officers wanted to pay him for all the farm produce that he had been providing the Japanese, because that was their promise that they would pay. But they never paid.

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And **then** my dad said, don't go John, **because I don't believe during this time, that with all this war going on, that they have any money to even pay you.** And he said, he's got to go because he wanted to protect his wife and children. And **Tan Maria** started crying in such **a sorrowful, painful cry that before we knew it** all of us kids were crying. Everybody was begging him not to go, but he left anyway. And so he left with them and then after that we all went back to our own ways and then my dad went to see Tweed and that is when he found the note. And so he came back and he told my mom, I guess now that Tweed is gone, we are free to go to **Manengggon** because the Japanese cannot suspect us of hiding Tweed, because he's already gone. But as we were getting ready to go, the same two men came back and they said the same thing to my dad.

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That they want to take him for payment and my dad didn't want to believe him and I was hiding behind the post of the house, listening to what was going on and I got scared and I wanted to yell to my dad. So I remembered, because I'm always a snoop person, I know that my dad was hiding a gun, because he didn't want to turn his gun into the Japanese. So I ran into the jungle and he was hiding his gun in the hollow of a tree and I took his gun out and I started running real hard to him and I said, Papa, Papa, look, I found a gun! And my dad grabbed the gun from me and he pointed at the two men and he said, tell me the truth or I will shoot you and kill you right now. And then he said, Carmen, call the dogs! So I started calling all our hunting dogs and then they finally told my dad that Father **Duenas**

and his nephew and Mr. **Pangelinan** were killed and that he was ordered – they were ordered to come take my dad and if they didn't do it, they will kill them too.

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So my dad said, I don't care what you say, I'm not going to go with you. You get out of here and don't look back, because the dogs are going to be right at your heels.

Q: And who were these men, they were Japanese soldiers?

Kasperbauer: No, one of them is Mr. **Joaquin Limtiaco** and the other one is a Saipanese. So they left and that is when my dad decided we have to go hide in Tweed's cave. So we went and hid at Tweed's cave. And then the shelling was getting worse and worse and it was toward our area and when we climbed **up**, it was so bad and my dad made me in charge of the end of the trail, that I'm supposed to make sure that all the path is covered up so nobody will know that we came through. Because you know, I have always been my dad's helper from the beginning of the war. Going into **the jungle** because I didn't like housework. So I was so scared, I didn't even feel that I was **even** walking on the grass or on the – I felt like I was floating on air and I kept hearing noise and I already knew the jungle noise because I had been there since 1941, December.

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So I knew even deer noise, a wild pig noise, bird's noise and other noise and I could hear people, but I'm trying to make sure that no one will see our tracks. And I had my pet deer, because my Uncle Joe caught the doe and he didn't realized that she just gave birth to a fawn. So he took his shirt off – this was earlier in the war – took his shirt off and wrapped the fawn and brought it home and gave it to me and said, and his jaw was even shaking, he felt so bad, that, I didn't want to kill the mom, I didn't know she just gave birth, so can you take care of the baby. So I raised that deer and I called her "Linda". So Linda was following us and my dad said, you have to get rid of the deer. And I didn't want to get rid of the deer because it's the only thing that I felt close to and I kind of relay my fear to. And my dad looked at me said, would you rather have that deer than your baby brother?

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My baby brother was only 8 months. The Japanese are going to catch us and they are going to kill all of us. And so I had to decide between my family and my pet deer. And I said, but how do I get rid of her and so my dad said [tape cuts briefly]

Q: Your father then told you that you had **choose** between the deer and your family, so what did you do?

Kasperbauer: [crying] So I had to break a branch in a way that no one is going to find the broken branch in the jungle and I had to use it and I started whipping her and whipping her and she looked at me and she just **pleaded**, “meh” and her pleading eyes, she couldn’t understand why I was beating her up. And I said, go away, go away! And I had to kick her because she refused to go away. And then I really had to hit her with all my might, so many, many times until finally she ran away. It was very painful to do that. And then I had to take care of my younger brothers and sisters that are right in front of me too. And my dad was helping my mom climb up the cliff after we got – to get into Tweed’s cave was very, very steep, up the incline and up the cliff.

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And it’s very narrow, **so my dad had to help my mom** and then after we got to a certain point, I had to **leave** the back of the trail and my dad would go above my mom to pull her up and I had to push my mom – first my dad had to take my little brother from my mom, and put him some place and then my dad had to grab my mom’s arm and I had to help push her, so that she can take care of the baby. And then after we got the cave, my mom – we didn’t realize, but my mom was also pregnant, maybe about three months pregnant and so she lost that pregnancy there. We didn’t have any water. And my dad had to go down to fetch water in the fresh water pool and that went on for days. Then when my mom was able to get some strength – no, first of all, my – that is when we were kneeling and praying and we were doing that a lot, whenever we can, when my mother can kneel down. But then my uncle, I guess was unnerved by all the shelling and the **kids’** noise and was afraid that

the Japanese were going to find us, so he came and started getting **mad** at my mom that she was not taking care of her seven kids, making all the noise.

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So they got into an argument and then he hit my mom and then my sister Maria, the oldest, came to protect my mom from the blow and she ended up getting hit and was thrown all the way to the back of the cliff. And then my dad came running up from fetching water and they – he and his brother got into a fistfight and that really scared us half to death. And then finally my grandfather took his family and my uncle's family and they went down below and they hid in a cave down below. And my grandmother **Nan Checha**, it was already getting dark, they went into the cave and she fell, because it was dark and she felt something warm and furry, so she got scared and she started to scream and she was warned not to scream, because they might be found by Japanese, but the person or the thing was not moving, so she just lay on top or near it and then everybody just crowded in the small cave. It wasn't until morning when they realized that it was a Japanese who shot himself, or killed himself and stayed there.

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When they went down and we were kneeling and praying, I got mad. Because I said, you said that God can hear us and we keep praying and he's not listening, so I threw my rosary at the wall, the cliff wall. I said, I'm not going to pray anymore because he doesn't want to help us. So I went to the front of the cliff, the cave and I was watching the invasion and then my cousin came up, calling, the Americans are here! And my father took his gun and said, **Jesus** if you are lying to me, I will kill you. How will I know that you didn't meet up with the Japanese and now you are going to turn us over to the Japanese to save your life? And he said, no, I'm not lying to you. He made the sign of the cross, and said, in front of God, I'm not lying to you. There is two right behind me. So my dad said, send one in front and take his hat off so I can see his head and his face.

Q: And your dad had his gun with him?

Kasperbauer: Incidentally, that gun is all rusty and it didn't have any bullets. So anyway, he pushes one guy out front and the other guy wanted – because you know, we didn't know how to speak English, so the other guy wanted to come up too, push him back, and I was just watching from my perch. And then he understood, they understood what was going on.

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So they stopped and he started reaching up for the guy's helmet and they struggle again and finally he said, "*Pula! Pula!*" which means "take off." And so he took off his helmet and my dad saw that they were American and so he allowed them in. And I went back from the back side of the cave and went in and I saw them hugging and kissing and I got really upset.

Q: Why were you upset?

Kasperbauer: Because I didn't understand, I thought my mother and father went crazy, because it's somebody in uniform and they had branches and leaves on their hat and **they were carrying grenades -**

Q: You didn't understand that they were Americans?

Kasperbauer: I was a small girl, I didn't understand. All I know is that people in uniform are bad people. They are going to hurt you. Because that is what the Japanese were.

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And I didn't understand why my parents were hugging and kissing, maybe because they are pleading for us not to be killed, you know? So I took all my brothers and sisters to the back of the cave and I refused for anyone to touch us, because I feel like, I'm not going to trust any more grownup. And I'm now in charge of all my brothers and sisters. **And we were ready to run away and I'm going to take them away, you know.** And my mom kept saying and my dad, come, let's go. And they smelled so bad. The soldiers, their odor, it's different from the Japanese sweaty odor. And I didn't want to go. But finally one of

them opened their ration and took out candy and gave it to me and then I realized I was hungry and thirsty and so I took it and I broke it and gave it to my brothers and sisters and then he gave me gum and I tasted it again and gave some to my brothers and sisters and after that, I reluctantly let them take us down.

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And we came down the cliff and my mom, after we got to the clearing, my mom asked one of the men, what day is it? And they told her and then she came back, running to me and laughing and crying and said, **Mummy, Mummy**, that is my pet name, **Mummy, Mummy**, it is your birthday! Today is August 8 and you are nine years old. [crying] But I didn't feel happy about it. They took us, when we were going out, there were dead Japanese piled on the side of the path. Dead Japanese all up in the different trees. And dead Americans were on the side of the road, or the path. Then they put us in one of those **weapons** carrier and took us to **Pigo** Cemetery and then the next day I was still running a fever and the doctor said I had pneumonia. So they put me in the infirmary tent and the man to one side was coughing and vomiting up blood. The woman to my other side was screaming - ***ai Nāna na piniti***. **She was having so much pain and I didn't realize she was giving birth**. So that night I ran away to find my family. I finally found my mom and dad.

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Q: And that was on your birthday?

Kasperbauer: Yeah. So that is how I remember the end of the war.

Q: And whatever happened, did you ever find your deer?

Kasperbauer: No. It's a painful way to grow up. [crying] And that is why I want very much for people, other people to know and understand. And for our children on this island to know and understand. And how we must try to forgive, but we must try also to make it better for our children. And we must give recognition and tribute to those Chamorros who

were killed, because of America and Americans and America has an obligation to recognize that. Not only recognize but give tribute.

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And quit making us feel like we are not worth anything. Our children need to be made to feel good and proud of themselves. For what they are, of being Chamorro, and America does not realize what a wealth they have in this indigenous culture and all over and they should capitalize on the richness of our diversity. That through our diversity, we can unite and make America a great country. And I feel it's so shallow for us to show boastfulness and material wealth and not in our **spiritual wealth**. And we must quit rushing, rushing, to make something materialistic to show other nations how great we are materialistically.

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Q: Carmen, this has been, I know, very difficult for you to talk about. And I want to thank you for this interview. These words that you talked about today, will be a part of a permanent record at the national park and they will be able to be viewed by Chamorro people and other people that will use this, because this will be on file there. So thank you very much.

Kasperbauer: Thank you too. I appreciate it. God bless you for your good work and God bless all Americans who have the right spirit and want to strive to bring justice to every one of us. And I hope that this will be known by others instead of bad leaders who are making bad decisions. Thank you.

Q: Thank you.

[END OF SESSION]