A RESOLUTION

Expressing the heartfelt sadness and condolences of the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia at the passing of Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug of the State of Yap.

WHEREAS, the late Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug was born in 1932 and was 78 years old when he passed away on July 13, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was a native of the wonderful island of Satawal in the State of Yap; and

WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was chosen at a young age by his grandfather, a master navigator himself, to be a navigator for the island of Satawal; and

WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug began his formal training in traditional, non-instrumental, wayfinding methods for blue water voyaging early in his life, and at the age of 18, Mau Piailug was made a palu or master navigator; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Master Navigator Mau Piailug stepped forward to captain the Hōkūle'a, a traditional sailing canoe, on a 2,500 mile voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti, using only the stars, sun, wind, birds and ocean currents to guide the crew; and

WHEREAS, the now famous 1976 expedition was organized by the Polynesian Voyaging Society to test the possibility of ancient seafarers' ability to travel that way through open ocean; and

WHEREAS, the success of the Hōkūle'a expedition provided insight to those in academia studying Micronesian-Polynesian
culture and migration hypotheses, and reignited a strong interest in preserving traditional wayfaring navigation skills; and

WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was considered one of the last masters of traditional wayfaring navigational skills, and became a renowned and esteemed teacher of these skills in an effort to preserve the knowledge of traditional wayfaring from extinction; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, an Hawaiian nonprofit organization, Nā Kalai Wa’a Moku, started by two of his students, arranged for the expedition of a 54-four foot voyaging canoe named Makali‘i to become the first Hawaiian voyaging canoe to visit Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, the Makali‘i voyage to Sawatal was named E Mau/Sailing the Master Home; the voyage was arranged to pay homage to Master Navigator Mau Piallug, and Mau Piailug sailed home aboard Makali‘i as their honored guest in his last great ocean crossing; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was honored by the Smithsonian Institute at the National Museum of Natural History where the Smithsonian Secretary aptly summarized that “The rebirth of non-instrument navigation came about largely due to this man, Mau Piailug;” and

WHEREAS, in appreciation and recognition of Master Navigator Mau Piailug’s contributions to teaching and preserving traditional wayfaring skills, in 2007 the people of Hawaii presented him with a double-hulled canoe, the Alingano Maisu; the Alingano Maisu was
sailed to Sawatal with the Hōkōle'a in a voyage named Ku Holo Mau/Sail On, Sail Always, Sail Forever; and

WHEREAS, because of Master Navigator Mau Piailug’s efforts and commitment, his significant and impressive knowledge and skills in traditional navigation will not vanish with his passing, but will continue to be found in the many students he taught and mentored, and the considerable legacy he leaves behind; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, Fifth Regular Session, 2010, that the Congress hereby expresses its recognition of, and appreciation for, the many contributions made to Micronesian culture by Master Navigator Pius “Mau” Piailug during his lifetime; and

BE IN FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress, on behalf of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, wishes to express to the family and friends of the late Master Navigator Pius “Mau” Piailug, and to the people of Yap, its heartfelt sadness and condolences at his passing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Governor of the State of Yap and the family of the late Master Navigator Pius Mau Piailug.

Date: 9/20/10            Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir
                          Isaac V. Figir

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal
Joseph J. Urusemal