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A RESOLUTION

Honoring the life and legacy, and expressing the sincere condolences and sadness of the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia to the family of the late Joseph J. Urusemal, the Sixth President of the Federated States of Micronesia, at his passing on September 16, 2025.

1       WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal was born on  
2   March 19, 1952, on Woleai in Yap State and devoted his life to the  
3   service of his community and the State of Yap, and to the  
4   development of this Nation and the welfare of all of our citizens;  
5   and

6       WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal upon finishing  
7   his primary school education attended Xavier High School, which he  
8   admired and supported during his life because of its high ideals  
9   and standards, after graduating in 1973 he pursued higher  
10   education in the United States where he attended Rockhurst College  
11   in Kansas City, Missouri and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in  
12   the Administration of Justice in 1976, he then remained in  
13   Missouri where he worked for the Jackson County Department of  
14   Corrections for six years when he decided to return to the  
15   Federated States of Micronesia to serve our citizens; and

16       WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal returned to  
17   the Federated States of Micronesia to serve our people in 1982  
18   first returning to the State of Yap where he became a teacher and  
19   counselor at the Outer Islands High School, as a new professional

1 the late President Joseph J. Urusemal took every opportunity to  
2 advise and assist students, and to instill the ideals of service,  
3 integrity and the value of education, he availed himself of all  
4 opportunities to further improve the education system including  
5 serving on the Yap State Education Steering Committee where he was  
6 instrumental in the establishment of the Yap State Education Five  
7 Year Plan ; and

8       WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal in 1987 ran  
9 for Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and was elected  
10 as the State of Yap at-large four-year Member beginning his  
11 immensely distinguished service of over 38 years with the Fifth  
12 Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, throughout his  
13 career he took a keen interest in development, health and  
14 education issues, and he participated actively in all committees  
15 where he was a member, as well as, maintaining an open door policy  
16 encouraging the public to visit with him as he considered himself  
17 a servant of all the citizens of this Nation; and

18       WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal became the  
19 Floor Leader of the Seventh Congress of the Federated States of  
20 Micronesia in 1991 and was maintained in that position until 2003,  
21 as Floor Leader his attention to detail and correct procedure  
22 greatly enhanced the leadership of Congress, the late President  
23 Joseph J. Urusemal's discipline extended to all his work,  
24 especially when reviewing budget matters, infrastructure projects  
25 and social welfare projects, his work ethic, now legend, as he

1 often continued working long after normal business hours, being  
2 satisfied only when he clearly understood the matters before him;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal was recognized  
5 by the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia in 2003 for  
6 his competence and integrity and was elected by its members as the  
7 Sixth President of the Federated States of Micronesia on May 11,  
8 2003, during his presidency he was known for his inclusiveness  
9 including appointing the women to cabinet positions, he oversaw  
10 the implementation of the Amended Compact of Free Association, and  
11 the realization of large infrastructure and development projects;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal returned to  
14 the Fifteenth Congress of Federated States of Micronesia after his  
15 service as our Nation's president, he then was selected as the  
16 Chairman of the then Committee on Health, Education and Social  
17 Affairs, and continued his service subsequently as Chairman of the  
18 stand-alone Committee on Education, he believed that the young  
19 people of our Nation are its greatest resource and nothing was  
20 more important, as an elder statesman he gave tirelessly as a  
21 mentor and advisor, and continued working until the last days of  
22 his life to serve the Nation and its citizens he so loved; and

23 WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal valued the  
24 culture and traditions of his home State of Yap, he was a deeply  
25 religious man finding support for his high moral standards and

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1 discipline in the church, he was devoted to his family, and was  
2 also known for his humor, love of sports and his humility; and

3 WHEREAS, the late President Joseph J. Urusemal will be  
4 mourned by his friends and former colleagues, and the citizens of  
5 our Nation as a man who embodied all that is great and good, and  
6 at this time our hearts especially go out with sincere condolences  
7 to his wife Olania Latileilam, and his children Robert J.

8 Marolfal, Tarsis Raffilug, Craig Erhienig, Spencer Osomai, Elenita  
9 Laenirhlur and Rhonda Lauwelig and his large extended family; and

10 WHEREAS, the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Federated States  
11 of Micronesia recognizes the extraordinary service and dedication  
12 that the late President Joseph J. Urusemal gave through his long  
13 career to the State of Yap, and the Nation as a whole, it wishes  
14 to express its sincere condolences to his family, former  
15 colleagues and the State of Yap and all the citizens of our Nation  
16 at his passing; now, therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the Federated  
18 States of Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 2025, that the  
19 Congress hereby honors the life and legacy, and expresses its  
20 sincere condolences and sadness to the family, friends and  
21 colleagues of the late President Joseph J. Urusemal at his passing  
22 on September 16, 2025; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated States  
3 of Micronesia, Governor of Yap, Speaker of the Yap State  
4 Legislature, the Council of Pilung, the Council of Tamol and the  
5 family of the late President Joseph J. Urusemal.

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7 Date: 9/24/25 Introduced by: /s/ Esmond B. Moses  
Esmond B. Moses

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9 /s/ Andy P. Choor /s/ Peter M. Christian  
Andy Choor Peter M. Christian

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11

12 /s/ Robson U. Romolow /s/ Julio M. Marar  
Robson U. Romolow Julio M. Marar

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14

15 /s/ Yoslyn G. Sigrah /s/ Johnson A. Asher  
Yoslyn G. Sigrah Johnson A. Asher

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18 /s/ Fabian S. Nimea /s/ Victor V. Goulard  
Fabian S. Nimea Victor V. Goulard

19

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21 /s/ Tiwiter Aritos /s/ Perpetua S. Konman  
Tiwiter Aritos Perpetua S. Konman

22

23

24 /s/ Merlynn Abello-Alfonso /s/ Jermy W. Mudong  
Merlyn Abello-Alfonso Jermy W. Mudong