
A RESOLUTION

Expressing the profound gratitude and appreciation of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia to Reverend Father Francis X. Hezel, S.J., in recognition of his seventy years as a member of the Society of Jesus, his fifty-seven years of faithful priestly ministry, his sixty-three years of devoted service to Micronesia, and his extraordinary contributions to the education, history, culture, governance, social development, and well-being of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia.

1 WHEREAS, Reverend Father Francis Xavier Hezel, S.J.,
2 entered the Society of Jesus on July 14, 1956, was ordained to
3 the Holy Priesthood on June 13, 1969, and dedicated his life to
4 God and to the service of humanity; and

5 WHEREAS, Father Hezel first came to Micronesia in 1963 as a
6 Jesuit scholastic and teacher at Xavier High School in Chuuk,
7 beginning what has become more than sixty-three years of
8 faithful, selfless, and transformative service to the people of
9 Micronesia; and

10 WHEREAS, throughout his ministry, Father Hezel has
11 faithfully served as a teacher, principal, director of Xavier
12 High School, assistant pastor, regional superior of the Jesuits
13 of Micronesia, local superior of the Jesuits on Pohnpei, parish
14 priest, educator, researcher, historian, author, mentor, and
15 advocate for the people of Micronesia; and

16 WHEREAS, Father Hezel played a foundational role in the

1 development of modern education in the Trust Territory of the
2 Pacific Islands and later in the Federated States of Micronesia
3 by directing the development of the Micronesian Social Studies
4 Program, authoring and co-authoring curriculum materials used
5 throughout Micronesia, organizing teacher training workshops,
6 promoting culturally relevant education, introducing innovative
7 educational programs at Xavier High School, and continually
8 encouraging excellence in education across the region; and

9 WHEREAS, in the fall of 1976, Father Hazel became the first
10 Director of Xavier High School to allow for the admission of
11 girls into the school; and

12 WHEREAS, as Director of Xavier High School and later
13 Director of the Micronesian Seminar, Father Hezel nurtured
14 generations of Micronesian leaders whose service has
15 strengthened government, education, churches, businesses, and
16 communities throughout the Federated States of Micronesia and
17 the Pacific region; and

18 WHEREAS, as Director of the Micronesian Seminar for nearly
19 four decades, Father Hezel transformed the institution into one
20 of the Pacific's premier centers for research, education,
21 historical preservation, and public dialogue, through
22 establishing an internationally recognized library, photographic
23 archive, historical collections, publications, documentaries,
24 and educational resources dedicated to preserving the heritage
25 and advancing the future of Micronesia; and

1 WHEREAS, Father Hezel has consistently elevated the social
2 conscience of Micronesia by conducting pioneering research and
3 public education on issues affecting island societies, including
4 education, youth development, suicide prevention, behavioral
5 health, family life, migration, economic reform, governance,
6 land use, substance abuse, public health, political development,
7 and sustainable human development, thereby helping policymakers
8 and citizens alike better understand and address the challenges
9 facing the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, through conferences, workshops, publications,
11 documentaries, television programs, radio productions, public
12 forums, and the Micronesian Seminar's educational outreach,
13 Father Hezel has encouraged informed civic participation,
14 strengthened democratic values, promoted responsible leadership,
15 and fostered constructive dialogue throughout Micronesia; and

16 WHEREAS, Father Hezel has authored numerous books,
17 monographs, scholarly articles, educational materials, and
18 historical works that have become indispensable references for
19 understanding the history, cultures, traditions, and
20 contemporary development of Micronesia, ensuring that future
21 generations will continue to benefit from his scholarship and
22 unwavering commitment to preserving the identity and heritage of
23 the Micronesian people; and

24 WHEREAS, Father Hezel has generously shared his expertise
25 with governments, educational institutions, regional

1 organizations, international development agencies, churches,
2 universities, and community organizations, providing wise
3 counsel and practical guidance in education, governance,
4 economic development, behavioral health, historical
5 preservation, and public policy throughout Micronesia and the
6 wider Pacific; and

7 WHEREAS, Father Hezel's distinguished service has been
8 recognized through numerous honors, including honorary doctorate
9 degrees from the University of Guam and Fordham University,
10 awards for outstanding contributions to Pacific education and
11 Micronesian history and culture, and recognition by leading
12 academic and professional organizations throughout the Pacific
13 and beyond; and

14 WHEREAS, while his scholarly accomplishments are
15 extraordinary, Father Hezel is perhaps best recognized by the
16 people of Micronesia for his humility, compassion, intellectual
17 integrity, unwavering faith, deep respect for Micronesian
18 cultures and traditions, and his lifelong commitment to helping
19 the people of Micronesia understand themselves, preserve their
20 heritage, and shape their own futures with confidence and
21 dignity; and

22 WHEREAS, the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia
23 joins the people of this nation in celebrating Father Hezel's
24 seventieth anniversary as a Jesuit, his fifty-seventh sacerdotal
25 anniversary, and his sixty-three years of dedicated service to

1 Micronesia; now, therefore,

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Twenty-Fourth Congress of the
3 Federated States of Micronesia, Third Special Session, 2026,
4 that the Congress hereby expresses its deepest gratitude,
5 admiration, and heartfelt appreciation to Reverend Father
6 Francis X. Hezel, S.J., for his lifetime of exceptional service
7 and immeasurable contributions to the Federated States of
8 Micronesia and its people; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress recognizes Father
10 Hezel as one of the foremost educators, historians, scholars,
11 and advocates for Micronesia, whose work has profoundly
12 influenced the nation's educational development, historical
13 preservation, social awareness, public policy, and leadership;
14 and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress extends its
16 warmest congratulations to Father Hezel on the joyous occasion
17 of his seventieth anniversary as a Jesuit, his fifty-seventh
18 sacerdotal anniversary, and his sixty-three years of devoted
19 service in Micronesia, and offers its sincere prayers for his
20 continued good health, happiness, and many more years of
21 faithful ministry; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated
24 States of Micronesia; the Governors of each state of the nation;
25 the Bishop of the Dioceses of the Caroline Islands; Xavier High

1 School; the Micronesian Seminar; the Superior of the Micronesian
2 Jesuit Community; the Provincial Superior of the USA East
3 Province of the Society of Jesus; Reverend Father Francis X.
4 Hezel, S.J.; and such other persons and offices as may be
5 appropriate.

6

7 Date: 7/04/26

Introduced by: /s/ Andrew R. Yatilman
Andrew R. Yatilman

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25