

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 02-24

Declaring August 9th 2002 as a national day of mourning in respect for the untimely death of Claudia Ngirasob, Rita Gracia Sungino and Dawn Bachungor Rechemang in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, following their representation of the Republic of Palau in the 2002 Micronesian Games

WHEREAS, Claudia Ngirasob, Rita Gracia Sungino and Dawn Bachungor Rechemang drowned on Sunday, August 4, 2002, while in Pohnpei, FSM while awaiting their return to Palau after ably representing the Republic on the Women's Softball Team in the 2002 Micronesian Games; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Ngirasob, 41, was a resident of Ngatpang, went to the S.D.A. Elementary School and the P.M.A. High School, worked for Surangel and Sons and had been a member of the Palau Softball Team since 1994; and

WHEREAS, Claudia Ngirasob, the youngest daughter of Imedechong and Ngirasob Ruluked, had four children (Jasmine, Jade, Connie and Dirrairikl) and is survived by three brothers and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, Rita Gracia Sungino, 32, was a resident of Airai State, went to school at Airai Elementary School and Palau High School, was a member of the Ngarayaml Women's Group in Airai and the Vice-Chair of its Logistics Committee, was the team captain of the Belias Women's Softball Team; worked at the Pacifica Development Corporation and had been with the Palau Softball Team since 1998; and

WHEREAS, Rita Gracia Sungino was married to Dizon Ngirkelau, had one child, Omark Ngirkelau, and is survived by two brothers and six sisters; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Bachungor Rechemang, 17, was a resident of Ngaremlengui State, went to school at Ngaremlengui Elementary School, was attending Palau High School, was a participant in the High School ISL Program, and had been with the softball program since the 2000 Interstate Games; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Bachungor Rechemang was the daughter of Maireng and Erchar Franz, had one daughter, Skalsol, and is survived by two brothers and two sisters;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and by virtue of the provisions of 1 PNC § 503 and Executive Order No. 24, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that a state of national mourning exists throughout the Republic of Palau as a tribute to the three Palauan athletes who recently died in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Claudia Ngirasob, Rita Gracia Sungino and Dawn Bachungor Rechemang, and that to properly observe

the occasion of the death of these three athletes, all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau and flags of the Republic of Palau flown at the embassies and consulates of Palau in other countries shall be hoisted at half mast on Friday, August 9, 2002.

SO PROCLAIMED this 5th day of August, 2002, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau