

## Presidential Proclamation No. 02-25

Proclaiming September 2002 as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month

WHEREAS, on behalf of the citizens of Palau, I am pleased to join the Ministry of Health's Behavioral Health Division in celebrating September 2002 as *Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month*; and

WHEREAS, in the past 20 years, medical science has made great strides in learning about the biology of substance use and the nature of chemical addiction; and

WHEREAS, addiction, a chronic illness that involves significant physical changes in brain function, is a treatable disease and treatment of addiction is as successful as the treatment of other chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and asthma; and

WHEREAS, substance use and abuse is a major public health problem that affects persons of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds and in all communities and which has a huge medical, societal and economic costs; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging September 2002 as *Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery* month, offers individuals in the substance abuse treatment community an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the effectiveness of treatment, both societal and financial; and

WHEREAS, *Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery* month celebrates the individuals who have engaged in successful treatment, families in recovery, and those in the treatment field who dedicate their lives to helping people recover from addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., do hereby proclaim the month of September 2002 as *Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery month* in Palau and encourage all citizens to support this year's theme- "*Join the Voices of Recovery: A Call to Action*" by supporting men, women and youth who are on drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and their families.

SO PROCLAIMED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002 at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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