

## Presidential Proclamation No. 03-34

Regarding the Loss of the United States Space Shuttle Columbia

WHEREAS, on Saturday, 1 February 2003, at approximately 12 midnight Palau time, the U.S. Space Shuttle Columbia was lost and there were no survivors; and

WHEREAS, Columbia was on its return trip from a 16 day research mission when it was lost; and

WHEREAS, this mission was the first shuttle mission of 2003, the 28<sup>th</sup> flight of the orbiter Columbia and the 113<sup>th</sup> flight overall in NASA's Space Shuttle program; and

WHEREAS, Columbia had a crew of seven, five men and two women, who "assumed great risks in the service to all humanity"; and

WHEREAS, "in an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the danger of travel by rocket and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the earth. These astronauts knew the dangers and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more."

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and by the provision of 1 PNC 503(c) and Executive Order No. 24, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., hereby proclaim that a national day of mourning shall be observed throughout the Republic as a tribute to these brave men and women and that to properly observe the occasion of the loss of these distinguished heroes, all flags of the Republic of Palau regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau, and Palau national flags flown at Embassies and Consulate Offices of Palau in other countries, shall be flown at half-mast for a period of five (5) days, commencing on 5 February 2003 and ending on 10 February 2003.

SO PROCLAIMED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 2003, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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