

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 03-99

Regarding the Death of the Late Ngiraked Roman Tmetuchl

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1999 at 10:35 p.m., Palau time, after a lifetime of public service and commitment to the people of the Republic of Palau, Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was called to eternal rest; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was born on February 11, 1926, in Koror State, Republic of Palau, and attended Koror Elementary School during Japanese time; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl, after Koror Elementary School, was drafted by the Japanese military government to work for the Kempei-tai, the Japanese Military Police; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was one of the first Palauans selected to attend George Washington High School in Guam where he graduated in 1950, and in 1953, went to the Philippines to study law; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl devoted himself to a life of public service at the district and regional level, beginning with the Island Affairs as political advisor; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl served as Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice of the Trust Territory High Court from 1952 - 1957 and then was appointed as District Court Judge in Palau; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was elected to the first Congress of Micronesia where he served with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl, while in the Congress of Micronesia, openly advocated a separate and independent Palau from the rest of the Micronesian Islands; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was appointed Chairman of the Palau Future Political Status Commission and negotiated a Compact of Free Association between Palau and the United States of America separate and apart from the rest of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was the first governor of Airai State and served with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl also served as Acting Ngiraked of Airai State and, in 1990 until his death, was the Chief Ngiraked of Airai; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was not only a political leader and a most successful business man, he was also a hero in the track and field events, having ran the 100, 200, and 400 sprints and relays; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl was an active member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, have built and donated the SDA Clinic to the Mission; and

WHEREAS, the late Mr. Roman Tmetuchl is survived by his wife- Dirrengerkiu Perpetua Polloi Tmetuchl; children-Clara T. Ueki, Remeriang T. Tell, Melwert Tmetuchl, Tlau T. Ridpath, Kekerad Tmetuchl, Mlib Tmetuchl, Joshua Oswei Tmetuchl, Uchel Tmetuchl, Ngiraibelas Tmetuchl, Glib Tmetuchl, and Omsangel Tmetuchl; Sister Ngeribongel Gibbons Tewid; grand children- Omdasu, Melusch, Madelsar, Eldukl, Elselarang, Bkelelaieb, Dirramong, Ngerduais, Ngerbelas, Kiukl, Despedall, Barbara Teblaol, Reginald, Teruko, Glim, Metuchl, Melaos, Keruul, Omkal, Sils; great grand children - Jada; and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau and by the provisions of 1 PNC 503(c) and of Executive Order No. 24, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that a state of national mourning shall be observed throughout the Republic as a tribute to the late Roman Tmetuchl and that to properly observe the occasion of the death of this very distinguished public servant, all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau, and the national flags of the Republic of Palau flown at liaison offices of Palau in other countries, shall be flown at half-mast for a period of five (5) days commencing on July 3, 1999, and ending on July 7, 1999.

SO PROCLAIMED this second day of July 1999, at Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/
for Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau