

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 04-92

Upon the Death of Chief Justice Mamoru Nakamura

Early Saturday morning, April 25, 1992, Chief Justice Mamoru Nakamura suffered a heart attack at his home. Efforts to save him were unsuccessful, and he died at McDonald Hospital in Koror at 1:10 a.m. this morning.

The Chief Justice served with great distinction as the highest judicial officer of this nation since our Constitution came into force in 1981. Questions testing the survival of Palau's Constitution came before him again and again, as he went about his duties, and he was always equal to the task. His manner conveyed to all persons who appeared in his courtroom his instinctive fairness, his search for the truth of the cases before him, and his respect for the Constitutional limitations upon the judiciary in our system.

The integrity the Chief Justice displayed increased his burdens as questions filled with controversy; particularly land claim determinations, were assigned to him by others who could agree on very little except that a job given to him would be done well. He approached each person with his natural goodwill, tempered by his appreciation of human error. Within this government, he was a tireless campaigner for the improvement of court facilities. He worked to improve all phases of the administration of justice and quietly to encourage young Palauans towards careers in law.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Chief Justice's wife Lillian, to his children and family. His brothers and sisters; including Vice President Kuniwo Nakamura and Senator Daiziro Nakamura are particularly in our thoughts. The loss to the family of this good man at the height of his powers carries a special pain.

In accordance with Executive Order No. 24, flags will be flown at half mast throughout Palau for ten days, as a gesture of respect for Chief Justice Nakamura. All Palauans will miss him. His place in our nation's history is assured.

Executed at Koror, Palau, this 25th day of April, 1992

/s/

Ngiratkel Etpison
President of the Republic of Palau