

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION No. 08-94

Observance of the 50th Anniversary of World War II
in the Republic of Palau and in Peleliu State

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, war came to the Pacific at Hawaii, and began a cruel conflict which was to last for close to four years and claim millions of lives, destroy vast properties, and usher in the atomic age; and

WHEREAS, local observances of the War should be conducted in a manner to express the special sensitivity and unique viewpoint of our people for this traumatic event in world history; and

WHEREAS, the great Pacific War washed over our entire island society; children, women, the old, the pacifists, all were shaken from their routines by hardship, sadness and loss; and

WHEREAS, September 15th, 1994 will be the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle of Peleliu; and

WHEREAS, the people do not glorify war, and with the assistance of a merciful God, have forgiven both great armies for the hardship they visited upon us; and

WHEREAS, the people of Palau and of Peleliu State wish to use the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu and war in Palau to stress the need for peace and harmony between all nations and particularly, between the United States and Japan; and

WHEREAS, it is the unique opportunity of the indigenous people of Palau and Peleliu State to form a bridge between the old World War II combatants, and to encourage the permanent healing of wounds the conflict left upon these people; and

WHEREAS, while we can and must honor the sacrifice of those who fell in battle, the great lesson of the war is that we must promote and glorify peace among nations, harbor war, and work tirelessly to promote goodwill and understanding among people of all races and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, as proud Palauan citizens, our role during the observance of the 50th Anniversary of World War II will be as unique as our anticipated independence in free association with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, it is our obligation, as God's children, to promote not only peace, but also goodwill and close social, cultural, and economic ties between all citizens of the United States and Japan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kuniwo Nakamura, President of the Republic of Palau, by virtue

of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic, do hereby:

1. Welcome to Palau and Peleliu State all visiting veteran groups honoring the World War II battle sites in Palau and Peleliu State; and
2. Invite veteran groups from both the United States and Japan to join hands and hearts with the foe of yesterday and pay solemn tribute to those who died in the struggle respecting their faith, their dedication, and their sacrifice; and
3. Request all persons to remember the sacrifice of the civilian population of the Republic of Palau caught up in the whirlwind of war; and
4. Encourage all residents and citizens of Palau and Peleliu State to join in appropriate remembrance of the events of World War II occurring in our islands; and
5. Ask that the souls of those brave warriors who died upon our sea and on our beaches and in our green jungles, rest in peace; and
6. Hope for tranquility ever more in these beautiful and peaceful islands.

SO PROCLAIMED this 6th day of September 1994 at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau